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Seaside Chic, pg 24  
Photograph Sally Chance

★ ON THE COVER





# SOUTH AFRICAN GARDEN AND HOME

## READERS' QUERIES

011 449 1010 or e-mail [gardenhome@caxton.co.za](mailto:gardenhome@caxton.co.za)

## EDITOR

Mary Jane Harris

## EDITOR'S PA

Mandy Buchholz 011 449 1010

## FEATURES EDITOR

Karien Slabbert [kariens@caxton.co.za](mailto:kariens@caxton.co.za)

**KZN CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, DECOR**

Candice Botha [candicebotha@gmail.com](mailto:candicebotha@gmail.com)

**CAPE CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, GARDENING**

Marianne Alexander [gandhgardenguru@gmail.com](mailto:gandhgardenguru@gmail.com)

## ART DIRECTOR

Hema Nana [hmana@caxton.co.za](mailto:hmana@caxton.co.za)

## DESIGNER

Katlego Bano [katlegob@caxton.co.za](mailto:katlegob@caxton.co.za)

## PRODUCTION MANAGER

Patricia Pieterse [patriciap@caxton.co.za](mailto:patriciap@caxton.co.za)

**CHIEF SUB-EDITOR, GARDENING**

Diane Peacock [dianep@caxton.co.za](mailto:dianep@caxton.co.za)

## DIGITAL EDITOR

Carina Claassens [carinac@caxton.co.za](mailto:carinac@caxton.co.za)

## JUNIOR STYLIST

Monica Mtshemla [monicam@caxton.co.za](mailto:monicam@caxton.co.za)

## REPRO AND RETOUCHING

Caxton Repro Department 011 449 1050 [neville@caxton.co.za](mailto:neville@caxton.co.za)

## EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Natalie Boruvka, Elizabeth Donaldson, Cornel Dunn, Jane Griffiths, Lizette Jonker, Derick Kirk, Leon Kluge, Sarah Laurence, Sacha Olivier, Connall Oosterbroek, Tess Paterson, Anne Schaffer, Marian van Wyk, Diana Wemyss, Henrique Wilding, Lyn Woodward, Catherine Zachariou

## MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

Roline Haine 011 293 6015 [rolineh@caxton.co.za](mailto:rolineh@caxton.co.za)

## ADVERTISING

**JOHANNESBURG** 368 Jan Smuts Ave, Craighall 2196, 011 293 6000 Fax 011 789 9636. Bookings 011 889 0600 Fax 011 889 0923

**CAPE TOWN** Caxton Magazines, 36 Old Mill Rd, Ndabeni, Maitland 7405, 021 530 8600 Fax 021 531 3795

**DURBAN** 19-21 Joyner Road, Prospecton 4110, 031 910 5841 Fax 031 910 5838

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

011 473 8700 Fax 086 756 6374

[gardenandhomesubs@RNAD.co.za](mailto:gardenandhomesubs@RNAD.co.za)

## BACK ISSUES

011 473 8700

## CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds Sales Manager

Gary Wium 011 889 0885 [garyw@caxton.co.za](mailto:garyw@caxton.co.za) or

Charmaine Pillai 011 449 1064 [cp@caxton.co.za](mailto:cp@caxton.co.za) or

Tamlyn Pasqualie 021 530 8600 [tamlynp@ctp-mail.co.za](mailto:tamlynp@ctp-mail.co.za)

## DISTRIBUTION

RNA Distributors 12 Nobel Street, Industria 2093 011 248 3500 Fax 011 474 3583 [rna@RNAD.co.za](mailto:rna@RNAD.co.za)

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**GENERAL MANAGER** Anton Botes

**GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** Debbie McIntyre

**GROUP CREATIVE STRATEGY DIRECTOR** Clive Vanderwaggen

**PRINT GROUP MARKETING MANAGER** DeJane Poil

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Sada Reddhi

**HEAD OF DIGITAL** Jana Kleinloog

**EDITORIAL HEAD OFFICE** Caxton House 368 Jan Smuts Avenue, Craighall Park 2196, Box 3124, Parklands 2121. Tel 011 449 1010

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# The good life



When you work for a monthly magazine, one thing that's very disconcerting is that you're never in sync with real time. We start thinking about Christmas in June (sometimes even March) and beach houses for the January issue are often photographed in June when the weather in KZN is usually perfect and the

Cape rains have not yet started. And speaking of the weather, as a gardener I'm delighted when the first rains come, but do they have to coincide with our shoots? Sometimes it seems that just as we mention the words beach house or garden shoot, storm clouds start gathering.

But fortunately the sun shone on the day our Durban contributing editor Candice Botha and photographer Sally Chance arrived to shoot Alice Colle's lovely Ballito apartment, and the wind died down, giving them the opportunity to capture our gorgeous cover this month. At the end of a long year this is where we all long to be – soaking up the sunshine on a beautiful deck overlooking the sea.

In fact, all the lovely houses featured in this issue have the same chic but relaxed atmosphere. They're all designed to make the most of their coastal setting, and for laid-back living where the odd bit of sand or a wet costume doesn't matter.

A new year always brings with it good intentions and resolutions, so if you're planning on giving your home a new look, we asked three top decor fundis to give their predictions for 2015. What I love about the new looks they created is that in addition to being on-trend and stylish, they're comfortable and easy to live with, and with a few judicious buys, you can adapt them to any home.

One resolution we should all make this year is to go a little greener in the garden. It doesn't have to be radical – just a few small changes, as suggested by contributing gardening editor Marianne Alexander on page 104, can make all the difference.

And if you're hosting a get-together to celebrate the new year, then turn to page 58 for some great buys to make your party a success. If you're wondering what to serve, Cape Town foodie Andrea Foulkes and her family share their recipes for delicious, easy-to-make party food and their tips for stress-free entertaining on page 112.

Best wishes for a wonderfully relaxing holiday and a brilliant 2015 from the *Garden and Home* team.

*harry Tane*



If you've got an old wrought iron chandelier, raise your hand. Did you know you could turn it into a stunning hanging basket? Lizette Jonker shows you how on page 76.



At this time of the year, a good corkscrew is a must. And if you're holidaying at the coast, the Kingsley Penguin Winged version, R259, from LiVin, couldn't be more appropriate. [livin.co.za](http://livin.co.za)



If you're not into fussy flower arrangements, then copy this idea we spotted on Caroline Richardson's patio (page 64) – simple but stylish. For other easy arrangements, see page 56.



I love the idea of incorporating treasured items in your home, and interior designer Pim Verdoorn's idea of turning favourite scarves into scatter cushion covers is brilliant. Read about her decor trend predictions on page 18.



I'm mad about the new Fragonard rose from Ludwig's Roses. Launched recently, it has a divine scent and makes a great cut flower. [ludwigroses.co.za](http://ludwigroses.co.za)



# Summer Living



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## winning letter

### FESTIVE DELIGHT

Everyone in my household fell in love with the article 'Double the delight' in your December 2014 issue. We loved the great ideas for Christmas and New Year, and, of course, the recipes looked mouth watering! There can't be a better way to start the New Year than with the seafood celebration salad with tropical fruit as well as the white chocolate truffle with seasonal berries – what a great way to enjoy berries freshly picked from our garden! What touched my heart most was the photo of Klaradyn, the dog. It reminded me to include our four-legged family members in the festivities.

I love the visual treat and wealth of informative articles in *Garden and Home* every month. Throughout 2014, your magazine never failed to live up to my expectations. I'm looking forward to this year's issues!

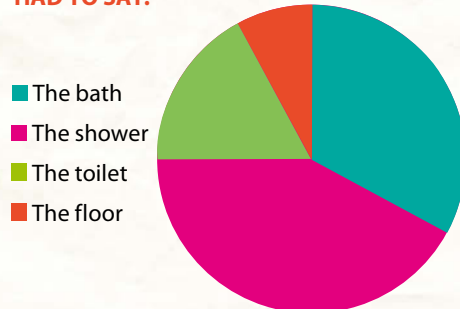
**Jacoba du Plooy, Bloemfontein**



### WE ASKED ONLINE...

If you could replace one thing in your bathroom, what would it be?

**HERE'S WHAT OUR WEBSITE VISITORS HAD TO SAY:**



### WE ASKED ON FACEBOOK...

What do you love about gardening?

**Debbie van Minnen Marais:**

"Spending time in the fresh air with family."

**Mandi Renwick:** "Watching my seeds grow."

**Antonia Amyot:** "Creating beauty!"

**Elizabeth Ann Turner:** "It's the best way to relax."

**Linda Pringle Conradie:** "Putting new life into Mother Earth."

**Tlhaki Mokgopa:** "Feeling the beauty of nature."

### Summer SPACES

In December 2012, we bought a small cottage in Oranjezicht. We had been living in a flat, so we loved that we now had a tiny garden and courtyard for entertaining. Unfortunately, the area was basically a cement yard, with dreadful drainage issues.

While reading my mom's back issues, I came across a makeover by

Roomtogrow in your November 2011 issue, and we decided to contact them to see what they could do about our drab courtyard.

Brett and Andrea Chilcott designed the most beautiful space for us, and we now have the perfect spot not only for entertaining, but also to enjoy with our children. Thank you for the inspiration!

**Tamaryn Cox**



### WRITE IN AND WIN!

Jacoba has won a Linen Drawer voucher worth R1 500. Linen Drawer is the go-to place for quality bed and bath linen, and with many years of expertise in the industry, they're eager to share their knowledge to ensure you get the most comfortable, perfect night's sleep. If you're looking for new bath or bed linen, throws, towels and a duvet, shop online at [linendrawer.co.za](http://linendrawer.co.za) and get your items delivered free nationwide. 021 872 0108



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- PO Box 3124, Parklands 2121
- SA Garden and Home magazine
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# Home FRONT

Our pick of this month's highlights, from things to do and seasonal shopping to decor news and the best places to visit

## OUT OF AFRICA

KZN-based Richard Chennells and Peter Engblom are the masterminds behind the Inyezane Collection. The pair started out

by designing fabrics and re-covering old sofas and chairs, before opting to make new items from scratch. Bold, colourful and full of humour, these statement pieces are available from their Eshowe factory, or through the Bayliss Gallery in Jo'burg. [richard-chennells.squarespace.com](http://richard-chennells.squarespace.com)



## Tray chic

The perfect blend of art and functionality, these Notre Mode handmade trays, available from La Grange Interiors, are signed by the makers. [lagrangeinteriors.co.za](http://lagrangeinteriors.co.za)



## BEACH HOUSE BLUES

The new Indigo collection by The Silk & Cotton Co celebrates the classic combo of blue and white. These crisp paisleys mix easily with relaxed stripes and statement florals. [silkco.co.za](http://silkco.co.za)



## BURNING BRIGHT

For a hit of luxury and whimsy, don't miss Jim Thompson's Tiger Tiger collection. In addition to the eponymous design, the range has gorgeous florals and unusual geometrics. See the collection at T&Co. [tandco.co.za](http://tandco.co.za)



## Local LIGHT

Egg Design's new Surilight took London's 100% Design by storm. Inspired by the adornments of the Ethiopian Suri tribe, the lights feature a series of interlocking loops in metallics, coated steel or acrylic. [eggdesigns.co.za](http://eggdesigns.co.za)

COMPILED BY TESS PATERSON AND CANDICE BOTHA PHOTOGRAPHS CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN, HEMA PATEL AND SUPPLIED PRODUCTS AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 2.





## LIME ZEST

We love the mix of sharp green and aqua that's so prevalent this summer. Clarke and Clarke's Artiste collection (above left) features digitally printed velvets rendered in a painterly style, now available at Home Fabrics, [hf.co.za](http://hf.co.za). The pleasing geometry that epitomises David Hicks's style stars in the Solarium collection for Lee Jofa (above right) from St Leger & Viney. [stleger.co.za](http://stleger.co.za)

## Bird Song

If it's upbeat and cheerful you're after, the light-hearted Tweet Hearts range from Hertex fits the bill. Printed on cotton, velvet and linen, you can expect migrating swallows, owls, whistlers and exotic birds of paradise. [hertex.co.za](http://hertex.co.za)

## BATHING BEAUTY

Make sure you're the belle of the beach with a stylish Beachyheads lined beach bag, R999. [beachyheads.co.za](http://beachyheads.co.za)



## Designer's choice



"One of the most exciting products I've seen lately is this Geometric Storm chandelier by Willowlamp," says publicist and interior decorator Jean-Pierre de la Chaumette. [willowlamp.com](http://willowlamp.com)



## Pin It

Stephen Graham's pin artworks are 3D interpretations of everyday objects. Swarovski elements add subtle colour and shimmer to ice cream, rubber duck, flamingo and paint brush images. [stephengraham.co.uk](http://stephengraham.co.uk) >





## Snappy Seats

Sit & Co. in Jo'burg specialises in locally produced customisable seating – without the lengthy turn-around. Brother and sister team Martin and Sue Harris offer quality products with a three-week delivery promise. Look for on-trend ottomans, sofas, wingbacks and more. [sitandco.com](http://sitandco.com)



## This month we're loving...

"The graphic fern designs popping up on wallpapers and fabrics," says magazine writer Tess Paterson. "Sanderson's Manila from St Leger & Viney ([stleger.co.za](http://stleger.co.za)) has a cool, retro elegance that doesn't take itself too seriously. Ditto the Palm Leaf scatter, R79,99, from Mr Price Home." [mrphome.com](http://mrphome.com)



## Natural Wonder

Chic and versatile, this three-legged stool, R995 from Coricraft, is the ideal accessory this summer. [coricraft.co.za](http://coricraft.co.za)



## SEAFOOD PLATTER

Create a relaxed summer table with these hand-painted platters and bowls from Weylandts. From R69 per bowl. [weylandts.co.za](http://weylandts.co.za)



## WARDROBE WINNER

We love Milestone Kitchens' new range of free-standing wardrobes in their signature styles. You can choose how to configure the interiors, and all pieces are crafted in solid pine. [milestonekitchens.co.za](http://milestonekitchens.co.za)

## What's on

### 25 January

Don't miss the Val de Vie monthly market in the beautiful Paarl-Franschhoek Valley. Enjoy live music, watch a polo match and browse for a feast of local culinary delights. 10h00 – 15h00. [valdevie.co.za](http://valdevie.co.za) **GEH**



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# SINGULAR *beauty*

Jo'burg-based fine artist Angelique Petratos captures her subjects with photographic accuracy and intense colour

**What is your style?** Realism with an expressive quality. I use thin paint which shows the brushwork.

**What inspires you?** Faces, a beautiful vase... I'm always looking for something to paint. Some faces I recognise immediately as a portrait, but as far as still lifes go, I look for objects that appeal to me and I think how I could use them in a composition. I like old things with simple shapes.

**What do you do when you aren't painting?** Think about my next painting. I studied Fine Art at Wits and while I worked as a graphic designer in the advertising industry, my thoughts always drifted to painting.

**What medium do you use?** Oils. You can achieve so many effects thanks to their versatility. They allow me to capture the qualities of the surfaces I'm depicting and they have a long drying time, which allows me to rework areas that I'm not satisfied with. I also mix them with turpentine to use as a glaze.

**What challenges do you face?** To finish a painting – I'm never satisfied.

**What is your favourite subject?** I love painting faces. I usually use a black



background because it emphasises the play of light on the skin and adds a seriousness to the portrait.

**And the colours?** Colour is the soul of my work. I choose monochromatic tones because as soon as I start painting, I see so many hues. A white rose can have blue, yellow and pink in it. If I start with too many colours, it's overwhelming. My background is always a variation of black or white. I limit colour intentionally because it comes through anyway.

**Tell us about your creative process.**

Once I've decided on the subject or object, I set it up in different places and photograph it. This helps me to choose what format of canvas I need.

**Where do you paint?** Wherever there is light and no interruptions. **GH**

**SOURCE** Angelique Petratos 071 313 4297



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# GREAT ESCAPE

With its views of the Magaliesberg, this home pays a contemporary tribute to its owners' love of the African landscape



## AT A GLANCE

**THE ARCHITECT:** Nadine Naidoo, principal architect at Meik.

**THE CLIENTS:** Jenny and Phil Gregory, an executive with an international company.

**THE BRIEF:** A light, airy game-lodge-style home that's comfortable in every season and with enough space to accommodate visiting family and friends.

**THE HOUSE:** A modern single-storey design with aligned spaces that offer expansive, north-facing views through fold-back shutters and glass sliding doors.





When Phil and Jenny Gregory visited Monaghan Farm in Lanseria, north-west of Jo'burg, they knew they had found the perfect environment in which to build their new home. "Though Phil's business commitments take him abroad often, our travels in Africa have been the most memorable, so we felt right at home in these beautiful, grassy surrounds," says Jenny.

Their vision was for a contemporary game-lodge-style home that would maximise the spectacular north-facing views. "As we frequently have family and friends stay over, we wanted a spacious living and entertaining area with bedrooms that would offer our guests a degree of privacy," explains Jenny.

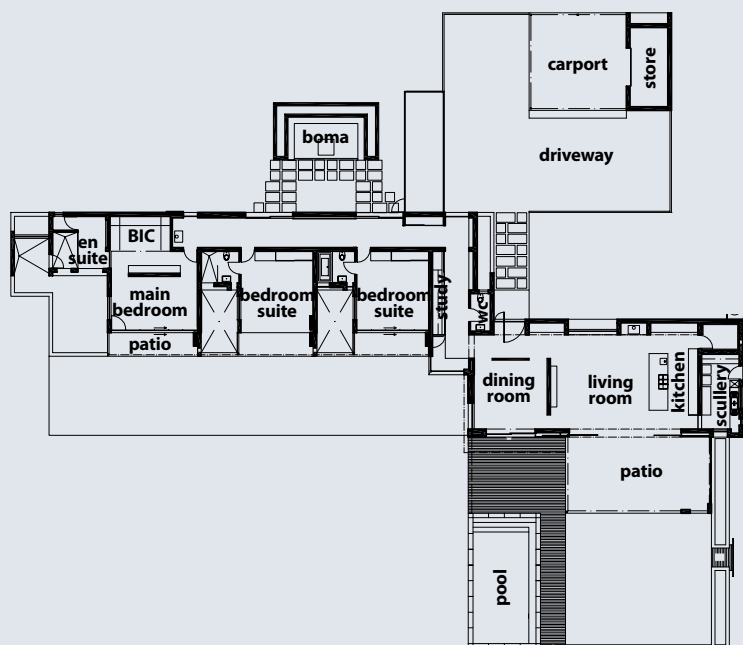
Architect Nadine Naidoo arranged the eastward sloping site into defined public and private spaces: to the west lies a spacious open-plan kitchen and living area that spills onto a veranda and to the east, three bedrooms. "The idea was to treat the bedrooms like separate suites so they each have private verandas and bathrooms opening onto individual courtyards," says Nadine.

The gallery, which connects the living and sleeping areas, illustrates a clever and efficient use of space. Functioning as Phil's study, it is designed as a convenient stow-away workstation that runs almost the entire length of the gallery. "As Phil works long hours, I designed a corner window seat to allow in light and a view, and provide a spot where he and Jenny can enjoy coffee breaks," explains Nadine.


#### ON THE WEB

#### GET THIS PLAN ONLINE

Visit our website at [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za) and click on Architects' Plans to download the plan.



Inspired by the ethos of the estate, which promotes a sensitive, respectful approach to the environment, Nadine implemented a number of passive design principles that create a home that is naturally warm in winter and cool in summer. "The clerestory windows bring additional light and warmth into the spaces in winter, but in summer the end window can be opened, allowing hot air to escape," says Nadine. In summer the bedrooms are naturally cooled by the cross ventilation between the north-facing slatted shutter doors and the south gallery openings.

The Gregorys travel frequently, so it was important to have a lock-up-and-go home that's easy to maintain. In the open-plan living area, Cemcrete floors, a Caesarstone island and imported polygloss kitchen cabinetry encourage a clean, uncluttered feel that complements the I-beam construction and gum and pine cladding. "I was fortunate to have clients whose desire for a modern, unconventional home was perfectly in keeping with the aesthetic guidelines of this picturesque estate," says Nadine. 

**SOURCE** Meik 011 025 8318 or 082 809 1907 or [meik.co.za](http://meik.co.za)



# WHAT'S TRENDING NOW:

## *High-quality luxe*



"In this digital age where we're exposed to mass production, more and more people are opting for timeless, quality pieces with an element of luxury," says Dawid Augustyn, owner of Establishment and designer for D|A Design



Alexander the Great **table**,  
POR, D|A Design.



Kartell Jelly **vase** in  
gold, R2 380, A&I  
Unlimited Design.

Artisa silk **rug**, R5 000/m<sup>2</sup>,  
Gonsenhausers Fine Rugs.



Utopia & Utility **vessels**,  
from R12 000, Establishment.



Adri **cushion** in Grey,  
R549, Country Road,  
Woolworths.



Carry **table**, R1 900,  
Leg Studios.

Tetrahedron Icosahedron  
Hexahedron **sculpture** by Chonat  
Getz, POR, Knysna Fine Arts.



Bend **table**, R4 300,  
Leg Studios. **GEH**

**SOURCES** A&I Unlimited Design [afritaly.com](http://afritaly.com) D|A Design [dawidaugustyn.com](http://dawidaugustyn.com) Establishment [establishment.co.za](http://establishment.co.za) Gonsenhausers Fine Rugs [finerugs.co.za](http://finerugs.co.za) Knysna Fine Arts [finearts.co.za](http://finearts.co.za) Leg Studios [legstudios.co.za](http://legstudios.co.za) Woolworths [woolworths.co.za](http://woolworths.co.za)





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trend forecast

# The next BIG THING



Wondering what 2015's latest trends are? Three local decor experts share their predictions.

## THE RIGHT MIX

With a history in fashion and enviable personal style, it's fair to say that Pim Verdoorn, co-owner and designer at Leon CCXIX, knows a thing or two about trends. Her prediction for 2015? There will be a strong push toward chic comfort, produced by mixing the old with the new, combining colour palettes and experimenting with texture. "We're currently in a world crisis so we crave a comfortable, light environment to live in that doesn't feel like a museum," she explains.

To illustrate this trend Pim used her beloved Hermes silk scarves as her starting point. She's collected them for years and they have a sentimental value. Simply by

turning them into scatter cushions Pim demonstrates how to update a room using items you already own. "It's important to create an atmosphere that is distinctly yours," she says. Traditional furniture is given a modern edge with a mix of delicate silks, sumptuous linens and plush velvet pieces used in jewel and stone hues. And Pim's advice for putting together your very own comfortable mix at home? "Let your personality shine through and don't play by the rules!"

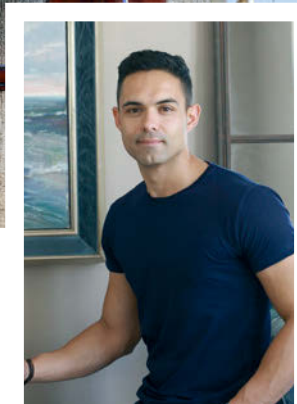


### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- The Tesla chandelier by Haldane Martin and kilim rug from Gonsenhausers are strong focal points. The deep-purple armchair and coffee tables are by Leon CCXIX.
- The putty-grey Extravaganza sofa by Leon CCXIX adds a classic yet contemporary feel.
- A modern chair by Haldane Martin displays traditional deep buttoning in a racing-green velvet.

**SOURCES** Leon CCXIX [leonat219.com](http://leonat219.com) Gonsenhausers Fine Rugs [finerugs.co.za](http://finerugs.co.za) Haldane Martin [haldanemartin.co.za](http://haldanemartin.co.za)





## FALLING INTO BLUE

From liaising with clients to drawing up designs, Marc du Toit's diverse role at Classic Revivals means he's on the ball when it comes to predicting decor trends.

His forecast for 2015 is punchy indigo blues juxtaposed with antique pieces to deliver a neo-colonial masterpiece. Dark blue with white accents is an easy way to incorporate this crisp colonial trend into your home, and it's not expensive to achieve. "You can buy willow pattern crockery at your local Chinese supermarket for as little as R30. Use indigo throws and scatters to accessorise items you already own," advises Marc. It does,

however, pay to invest in good quality antique furniture as these pieces will stand the test of time and can be updated regularly. "Create rich layers by adding a deep-indigo throw to an antique upholstered chair and mix in some brass and chrome. Natural fibres like sisal and coir add to the colonial feel," says Marc. ▷

**SOURCES** Albert Carpets 021 462 3446

**Classic Revivals** classicrevivals.co.za **Mavromac** mavromac.co.za **The Gatehouse at Mavromac** thegatehouse.co.za

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● Marc's collection of antique china jars takes pride of place on a console from Classic Revivals. ● Working from the ground up, Marc used sisal rugs from Albert Carpets to anchor the room. The velvet scatter is from Mavromac; the mirrors and dining chair are from Classic Revivals. ● Dust off your willow pattern china for a punch of indigo. Tribal throw from The Gatehouse at Mavromac.





## THE NEW MODERN

Industrial-style furniture will be more popular than ever in 2015, says Sumari Krige of La Grange Interiors, who's a trendsetter when it comes to modern design.

"Look forward to a fusion of styles and materials and items with softly curved lines, organic shapes and natural colour schemes with subtle accents," she predicts.

Sumari chose a fashionable palette of black and elemental greys with pops of vintage colours like amber, pale gold and saffron to craft a living area that fuses industrial-style design with touches of

contemporary country. To create a lived-in, welcoming look, she mixed retro smoked oak and metal furniture and a rebooted rug and slipcovered sofa in natural linen. "I love the strong contrast that layering hard and soft materials creates, while a muted palette allows individual pieces to shine," she says.

As the palette is quite neutral, Sumari used geometric patterns on scatters as focal points and oversized bulb vases to introduce one of 2015's signature hues: vintage amber. "The giant metal pendant lamps and metal-framed marble coffee table intensify the industrial style," she adds. **GEH**

### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

● Geometric-print scatters from Black Fabrics add colour to the neutral-hued Bartolo corner sofa. A pair of marble-top Declan coffee tables and the Geo standing lamp round off the look, while the trio of Dome pendant lights give the room an industrial vibe. ● Warm amber vases and a gold votive breathe life into the setting. ● The retro Geo standing lamp picks up on the muted hues and gives the room a distinctly industrial feel. All available from La Grange Interiors.

**SOURCES** Black Fabrics [blackfabrics.co.za](http://blackfabrics.co.za)  
La Grange Interiors [lagrange.co.za](http://lagrange.co.za)



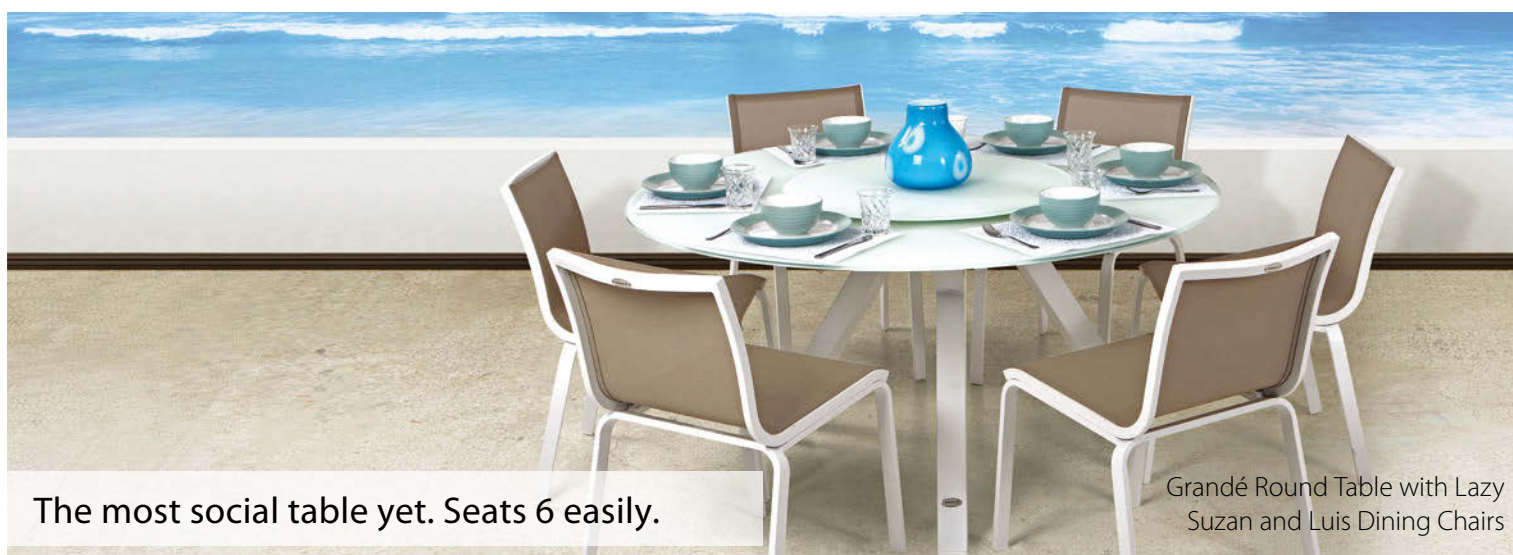
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Use natural textures to add a rustic element. Marigold wooden **mirror**, R2 995, Loft Living.



Add a glow in the evening with this **lantern**, R375, Woolworths.



This **pendant light**, R1 895, Loft Living, adds a touch of Scandinavian cool.



Whimsical **mugs** are a fun way to enjoy your favourite beverage, R130 each, Mervyn Gers.

## GET THE LOOK

**Elzabe Smit, who designed this peaceful space, is the owner of Buttermilk Bed Linen & Interiors. Here are her tips on getting this look:**

- Choose sheer linen curtains to allow light and sun to filter through to give an airy and inviting look.
- A daybed with lots of scatters is a must for spending wonderful hours relaxing.
- Bring in a few pieces of rustic furniture to give the area a lived-in feel.
- You can't go wrong with a natural scheme with blue accents. **GH**



Add scatters to make seating more comfortable. Bird **scatter**, R329, Country Road. Tiled pattern **scatter**, R399, Woolworths.



A cosy couch encourages hours of lounging. Core 2,5 seater **sofa**, R14 995, Weylandts.



Coloured glass adds sparkle. Outdoor **tumbler**, R35, Woolworths.



For that country feeling use Chaplin **dining chairs**, R1 295, Loft Living.



Bring in an African element with this Shweshwe **platter**, POR, Mud Studio.



The Casa slatted teak **table**, R11 495, Weylandts, is great for leisurely family lunches.

Store games, magazines and books in this wicker **trunk** (medium), R1 895, Loft Living.



**SOURCES** Buttermilk Bed Linens and Interiors [buttermilk.org.za](http://buttermilk.org.za) Country Road [countryroad.co.za](http://countryroad.co.za) Elzabe Smit 082 821 2323 Loft Living [loftliving.co.za](http://loftliving.co.za) Mervyn Gers Ceramics [mervyngers.co.za](http://mervyngers.co.za) Mud Studio [mudstudio.net](http://mudstudio.net) Weylandts [weylandts.co.za](http://weylandts.co.za) Woolworths [woolworths.co.za](http://woolworths.co.za)



# Seaside CHIC

Alice Colle and Seamus Kelly's Ballito apartment proves that a home that's short on space needn't be short on style



The **deck** provides a stunning view of Ballito. The outdoor furniture is from Camp Orchards Country Store (formerly Timeless Interiors) and the umbrella from BBS Mica Ballito. The Yellow Trellis and Green Moroccan cushions are from Emeline Designs.



## Who lives here

Fabric and cushion designer Alice Colle and her partner Seamus Kelly, their Great Dane Hugo and Labrador, Burberry.



## The house

The top floor of an old Ballito house which has been converted into two separate apartments. There's an open-plan living area that opens onto a deck, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. They share the garden with the other apartment.



Long, lazy lunches are enjoyed on the **deck**. Pink Moroccan cushions from Emeline Designs.









You can't beat the setting of Alice Colle and Seamus Kelly's Ballito apartment. Situated high above the rapidly expanding seaside town, the couple's home is the upper half of an old house that was converted into two separate apartments and enjoys views that take in the beachfront and the Indian Ocean beyond.

Although compact, the exposed rafters and stacking doors that open onto a deck make it feel twice the size. Their clean-lined furniture and Alice's unfussy approach to decorating further emphasise the feeling of space. Alice inherited her passion for beautiful interiors from her family. Her mother is well-known interior and fabric designer Anne Colle and her father, Stephan, is the chairman of Belgotex Floorcoverings.

Her talent for interior design is clearly evident in her home and The Ballito House, a boutique guest house she owns and runs. She recently launched Emeline Designs which specialises in fabrics and stylish scatter cushions. "I have a bit of an obsession with scatter cushions," she admits. "They're such a quick, simple, inexpensive way to change the whole look of a room."

Alice's decorating style, she says, is very simple. "I keep the walls and large furniture items as neutral as possible because neutral colours and textures never date – and then add colour here and there with cushions, ornaments and plants according to the season and whether I want a more contemporary or classic feel. You don't have to spend a lot of money to make a home look beautiful. Just mix inexpensive accessories with one or two investment pieces."

To create the neutral shell in the apartment, Belgotex Seneca flooring was laid throughout the living rooms and bedrooms for a seamless flow (try Arlington ▸

**LEFT:** Comfort is important to Alice and Seamus and the **living room** with its inviting couches from Cécile & Boyd is their favourite space. A large rug, from Belgotex Floorcoverings, demarcates this space within the open-plan area. The cushions are White Pom Pom, Blue Dot and Blue Pineapple from Emeline Designs.



Burberry, the Labrador relaxes in the **dining room** furnished with a table from Camp Orchards Country Store and chairs from Mr Price Home. The dresser displaying a collection of blue and white crockery has been in the family for years and was painted white, then red before Alice turned it blue.







WANT MORE?

Visit our decor image gallery for more pics of this house  
[gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za)

for a similar look from their new ranges). Certain feature walls were clad with grasscloth to add texture without being overwhelming. The furniture is a mix of special pieces and hand-me-downs which Alice breathed new life into. “The dresser in the dining room, for instance, came from Timeless Interiors a few years ago,” she says. “It was originally white and then my sister painted it red and now I’ve painted it the most beautiful blue to give it a Ralph Lauren

look.” A large dining room table is the ideal spot for entertaining family and friends but Alice and Seamus usually eat at the smaller table in the kitchen or out on the deck.

Alice’s favourite area is the living room which she’s furnished with white slipcovered sofas that can easily be washed – something to consider when you have two large dogs. Matching coffee tables and ottomans maintain the sense of symmetry. Alice introduces bowls of fruit, lush foliage and

loads of candles which she lights regularly. And it’s these touches that turn the apartment into a cosy, comfortable home, something that Alice and Seamus value. ➤

**ABOVE:** The compact **kitchen** is fitted with built-in cabinets and shelving by Cupboard Value and concrete countertops. The sideboard is from Camp Orchards Country Store and flooring is Belgotex Floorcoverings’s Seneca – try Arlington for a similar look.



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● The cabinet in the small **bathroom** was bought from Camp Orchards Country Store and converted into a vanity. The shutters are from Aesthetics Shutters and Blinds. ● In the **main bedroom** textured grasscloth wallpaper is offset by crisp white linen. Blue lamps from Cécile & Boyd and floral cushions give the room a fresh, summery feel.



## Get the look

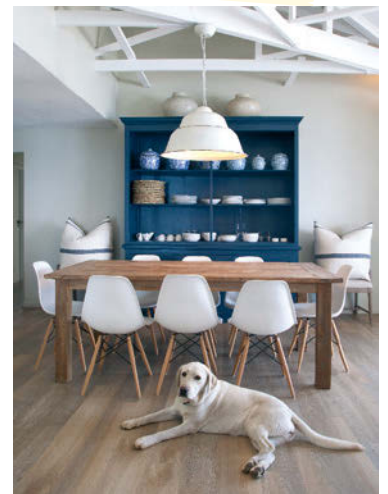
Replicate the fresh coastal look of this dining room with these essential elements **GH**



Cherry blossom tapas **bowl**, R45, Woolworths.

Blue and white striped **ginger jar**, R1 425, NetDecor.

Blue willow **ginger jar** on stand, R295, NetDecor.



Southdowns **pendant light** in weathered white, R499,95, The Lighting Warehouse.



Diva **chair**, R730, DP Plastics.



White **cushion** with navy stripes, R125, Biggie Best.

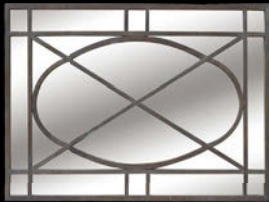


Wall unit, R54 950, SHF.

**SOURCES** Aesthetics Shutters and Blinds [aestheticsshuttersandblinds.co.za](http://aestheticsshuttersandblinds.co.za) BBS Mica Ballito [mica.co.za](http://mica.co.za) Belgotex Floorcoverings [belgotex.co.za](http://belgotex.co.za) Biggie Best [biggiebestwebshop.co.za](http://biggiebestwebshop.co.za) Camp Orchards Country Store (formerly Timeless Interiors) [camporchards.com](http://camporchards.com) Cécile & Boyd [cecileandboyds.com](http://cecileandboyds.com) Cupboard Value [cupboardvalue.co.za](http://cupboardvalue.co.za) DP Plastics [dpplastics.co.za](http://dpplastics.co.za) Emeline Designs [emelinedesigns.com](http://emelinedesigns.com) Mr Price Home [mrphome.com](http://mrphome.com) NetDecor [netdecor.co.za](http://netdecor.co.za) SHF [shf.co.za](http://shf.co.za) The Ballito House [theballitohouse.com](http://theballitohouse.com) The Lighting Warehouse [lightingwarehouse.co.za](http://lightingwarehouse.co.za) Woolworths [woolworths.co.za](http://woolworths.co.za)



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Caribbean cnr



From: R10,595 (fabric)  
Size from: 300x150x80

Shé



From: R6995 (fabric), R11,495 (leather)  
Size from: 205x85x90

New Yorker



From: R12,595 (fabric), R21,995 (leather)  
Size from: 300x150x80

Bellini



From: R4995 (fabric), R9995 (leather)  
Size from: 185x98x80

Eza



From: R4995 (fabric), R9995 (leather)  
Size from: 185x98x80

Valentino



From: R4995 (fabric)  
Size from: 180x105x80

Newport Coffee



Price: R6995  
Size: 100x100x42

Albany Dining



From: R12,995 (Solid Oak)  
Size: 240x100x75

Denver Square



Price: R4595 (Various colours)  
Size: 100x100x40

Zebra Skin Ottoman



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a SquareEdge design

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# INSIDE OUT

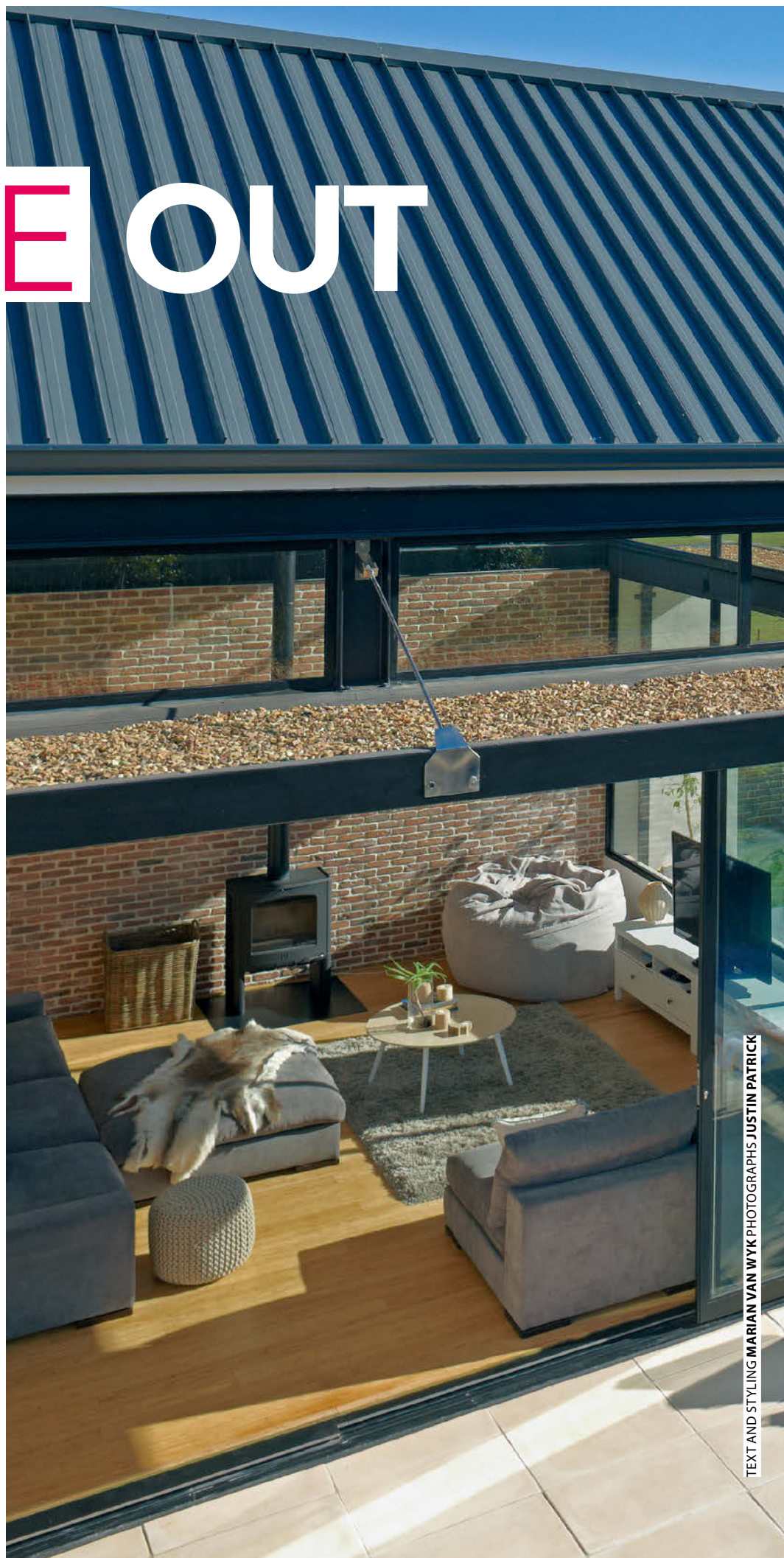
A globe-trotting couple put down roots in Noordhoek, Cape Town, where they transformed a compact house into a loft-style space with a modern yet cosy interior

With its Scandinavian-style interior, reclaimed brick focal wall and vast expanses of glass, the Noordhoek home of Stella Kühn von Burgsdorff and Robin Schleich might seem synonymous with all things cool and contemporary, but until 2013, the site was home to a conventional, suburban house.

Having spent a year in Cape Town in 2010, this globe-trotting couple – Stella has lived in other countries while Robin travels the world for work – realised “this was one special spot”. But first Belgium called, and it was while living there in 2013 that they bought a Noordhoek property close to Stella’s parents’ holiday home.

“It was the location rather than the house that caught our eye,” Stella explains, “and it was only when we bought the property that we really started the design process. ▸

**RIGHT:** When the stacking doors are open, the indoor and outdoor living areas become one spacious stoep. The wrap-around canopy is a structural support for the six-panel stacking doors, and keeps the sun off the glass. The stones protect the waterproofing membrane from the sun, but also make the canopy aesthetically pleasing.



TEXT AND STYLING MARIAN VAN WYK PHOTOGRAPHS JUSTIN PATRICK





### Who lives here

Newlyweds Stella Kühn von Burgsdorff, who has her own stationery business, and Robin Schleich, a management consultant working throughout Africa, with Taj, their dog. The couple is expecting baby Noah in January 2015.

### The house

A renovated contemporary home with open-plan living spaces and an easy flow between the interior and the pool and braai area. A home office on the mezzanine level overlooks the living room and there are four bedrooms.





We were inspired by our travels, and I started keeping a record of home designs. For our five-year dating anniversary I gave Robin a scrapbook filled with our favourite ideas, but I also left plenty of room for us to rethink these.

“This scrapbook formed the basis of our brief to various architects. While living in Australia, Robin and I got very used to open-plan living, so several aspects of the house – such as the seamless integration of interior and exterior – were inspired by our life there.

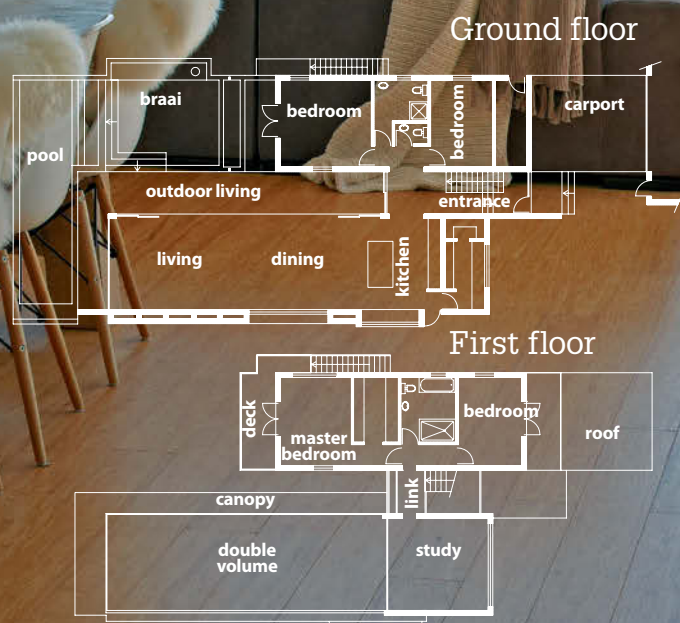
“Top of our wish list was plenty of glass to make the most of the views, steel >

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● The entrance hall links the original house (now the bedroom wing) with the new living areas. The couple designed the shelving and had it made by Selectspace. The front door was made by Cape Dutch Joinery. The Tintin sculptures are from Baraka and the Muuto wall hooks are from Entrepo. ● The chairs and their sheepskin covers were shipped from Ikea and the oak table was made by Tables to Order. The glass vases are from The Pause Room. The couple designed the sideboard and had it made by Selectspace. ● The large sofa complements the scale of the architecture, while the neutral palette comes to life with pops of colour. The cushions are from Design Team, the candleholders are from Nap Living. ● Stella has a baking blog ([bakedinlove.blogspot.com](http://bakedinlove.blogspot.com)), and the kitchen is where the couple enjoys cooking for friends. Selectspace was responsible for the cabinetry and timber tops.

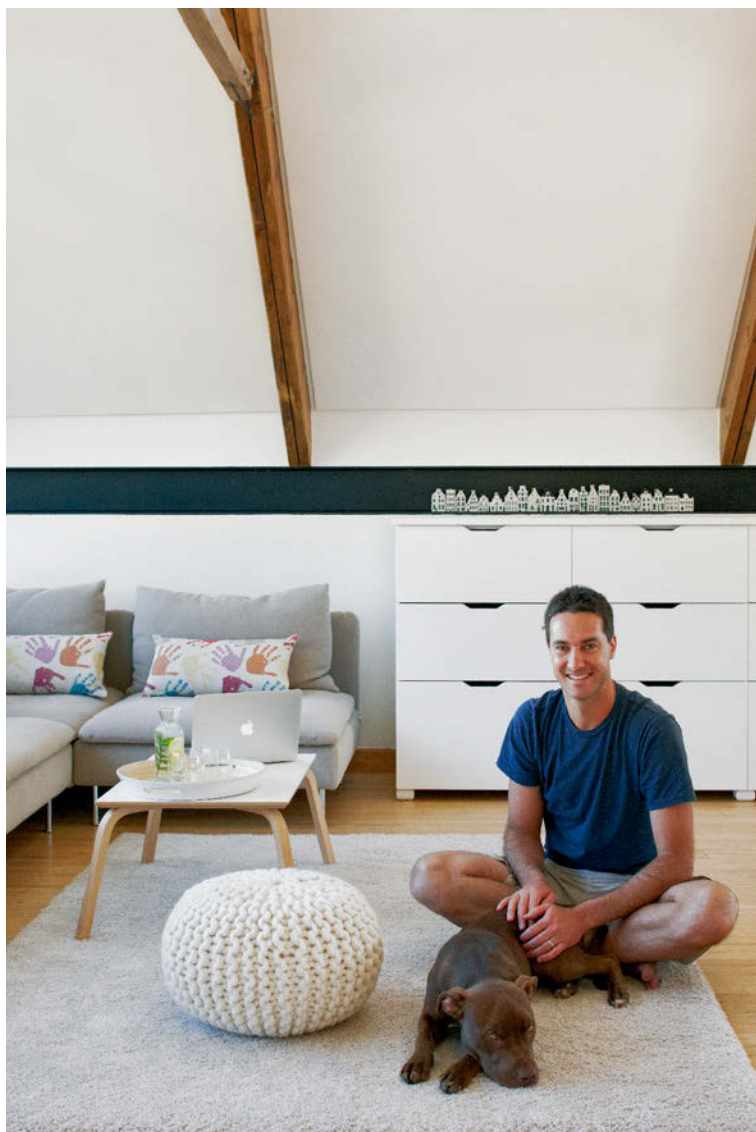




The exposed timber trusses remind Stella and Robin of the homes in the rural areas where they grew up. The reclaimed brick wall acts as a focal point and complements the large windows.







beams, exposed timber trusses, a spacious double-volume living area, and a large, practical kitchen.”

Having interviewed various architects, the couple decided on Graham Viljoen and Ania Sarnowski of Cape Town-based firm Fabricate Design. Transforming the rather ordinary house into a contemporary home did not come without its difficulties. “The awkwardly shaped site was a challenge,” Ania explains, “plus there was a 10-metre building restriction off the nearest road. On top of that the spectacular views were directly west, at right angles to the north orientation one would want.”

Says Robin: “Our builder, Barry Bugler of Bugler Building Projects, and his team, and engineer Jerome Daniels of Inovic Structural Design, played a key role in overcoming these difficulties.”

The team demolished the single-storey wing of the original house and designated this area to the barn-style double-volume

living area. To link the contemporary extension with the original house (now the bedroom wing), the architects designed a new entrance hall. “Though differently articulated, the matched roof profiles unify the old and new sections,” says Graham.

Ania and Graham minimised the western exposure and maximised the views by orienting the glazed living area with its short elevation to the west. Double-glazing and roof insulation also help to keep the interiors cool in summer. Says Graham: “While the traditional barn shape was modernised with glass, steel and crisp detailing, the raw brick wall, bamboo floors and timber cladding add texture

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● The well-organised home office on the mezzanine is Robin’s favourite spot. “It has views of Dunes, my surfing spot, while the windows under the gables reveal the mountains,” he says. The couple designed the cabinetry and had it custom made by Selectspace. ● The couple bought this world map in Perth. “Baby Noah will be a little traveller because he has already been to three continents in my belly,” Stella says. ● Nature-inspired motifs such as dandelions and clouds create a dreamy atmosphere in Noah’s room. The Stokke crib is from Kids Living.



and warmth, preventing the space from looking too cold."

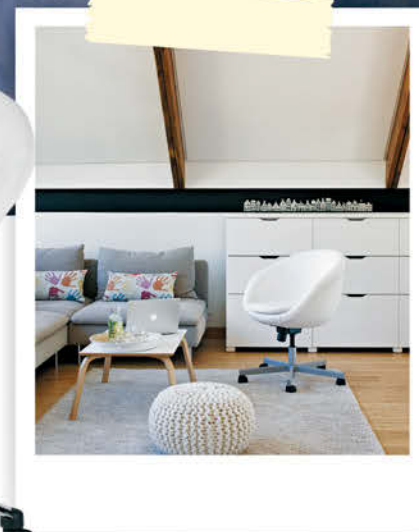
Robin and Stella both prefer the classic elegance of Scandinavian interior design and natural materials. "We appreciate furniture that is solidly built, ergonomically sound and visually pleasing."

Having once considered interior design as a career, it has now become a hobby for Stella. A recent highlight was decorating baby Noah's nursery. "I absolutely loved decorating this room. It's a magical thing decorating your first nursery."

With their passion for the outdoors and Robin's enthusiasm for surfing the couple are clearly content in their 'happy space'. "It's our hideaway from the rest of the world." **GH**

**RIGHT:** To make the most of their mountain and sea views, the couple added a balcony to the master bedroom. "We pinch ourselves every morning when we wake up to such beautiful views," Stella says.

*Get the look*  
Copy the contemporary style of this couple's study in your own home



Picturebook cushion, R389, My Favourite Colour.



Design Kist Cape Dutch cushion, R325, Meekel.



Office chair white, R1 199, @home.



Country Road Clio pod, R2 299, Woolworths.

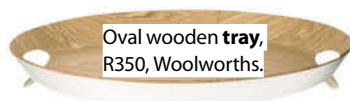


10D drawers white on oak, R12 990, LIM.

Shaggy 160x230cm carpet, R2 999, @home.



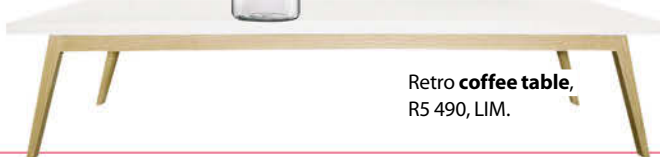
Oval wooden tray, R350, Woolworths.



Eva Solo fridge carafe, R499, Yuppiechef.com.



Retro coffee table, R5 490, LIM.



**SOURCES** @home [home.co.za](http://home.co.za) Baraka [barakashop.co.za](http://barakashop.co.za) Bugler Building Projects 082 348 2481 Cape Dutch Joinery [capedutchjoinery.co.za](http://capedutchjoinery.co.za) Design Team [designteamfabrics.co.za](http://designteamfabrics.co.za) Entrepo [entrepo.co.za](http://entrepo.co.za) Fabricate Design [fabricatedesign.com](http://fabricatedesign.com) Inoviv Structural Design [inoviv.co.za](http://inoviv.co.za) or 076 454 8736 Kids Living [kidsliving.co.za](http://kidsliving.co.za) LIM [lim.co.za](http://lim.co.za) Meekel [meekel.co.za](http://meekel.co.za) My Favourite Colour [myfavouritecolour.co.za](http://myfavouritecolour.co.za) Nap Living [napliving.co.za](http://napliving.co.za) Nevada Furniture (Ikea importers) [nevadafurniture.co.za](http://nevadafurniture.co.za) Selectspace [selectspace.co.za](http://selectspace.co.za) Tables to Order [tablestoorder.co.za](http://tablestoorder.co.za) The Pause Room [thepauseroom.co.za](http://thepauseroom.co.za) Woolworths [woolworths.co.za](http://woolworths.co.za) Yuppiechef.com [yuppiechef.com](http://yuppiechef.com)



cape weekend escape

# A *Coastal* GEM

For potter and jewellery designer Bridget Heneck and her husband Martin, their rustic Kommetjie beach home is the perfect place to unwind

TEXT DIANA WEMYSS PHOTOGRAPHS PETER RIMELL AND CHARLES DIDCOTT LOCATION PROVIDED BY AMAZING SPACES 021 447 1902





## Who lives here

Bridget and Martin Heneck, and their poodles Dooby and Daisy, visit on weekends and holidays, joined occasionally by their adult children.

## The house

A single-storey, timber-clad home with a loft bedroom above the studio, on a coastal eco-estate.

### THIS SPREAD, LEFT TO RIGHT:

- The front deck has a view across the beach to Hout Bay.
- Beautifully weathered jarrah clads the house.
- Bridget planted dune fynbos which has survived the winds, as have the aloes. ▷







“I’d always dreamt of building a house from scratch and when I saw this piece of land I was blown away by the incredible setting,” says potter, artist and award-winning jewellery designer Bridget Heneck. “It doesn’t just present a view of the ocean, but also the drama of the mountains and it has an amazing view across the water to Hout Bay.”

It took a year for the Henecks to achieve this dream. Environmental concerns and regulations meant that the house had to be as unobtrusive as possible, not spoil anyone’s views and conform to the limited footprint set down in the estate’s manual.

“From the outset it wasn’t going to be a fancy house, but one that was practical and comfortable,” says Bridget. “The materials had to be able to withstand some very tough weather conditions.”

The house is clad with one of the hardest woods, jarrah, which requires no maintenance and sliding shutters in the same wood provide security. Because it’s a mere six metres above sea level, the foundations had to be anchored to the bedrock beneath the sand.

Having undertaken three renovations in the 20 years they lived in America, Bridget and Martin knew exactly which fixtures and fittings they wanted. “When the builder asked me about the floors, I knew ▷

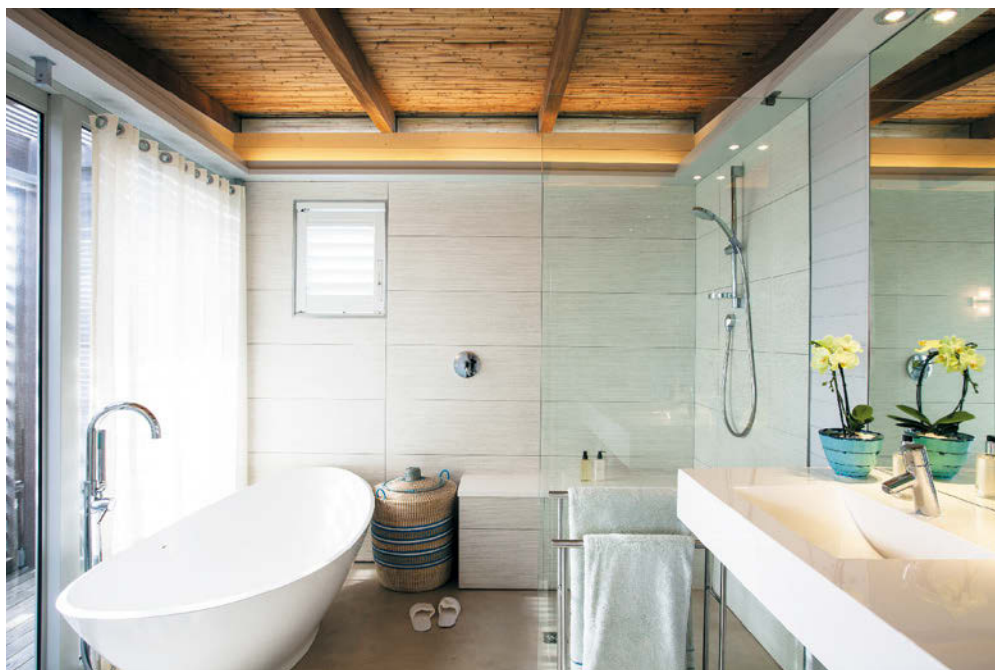
#### THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM

**TOP LEFT:** ● A comfortable mix of textures in the living room is pulled together by interesting fabrics in shades of blue. Shelves displaying ceramics by Bridget and other potters from Art in the Forest make a focal point. ● The navy pots on the dining table were made by Anthony Shapiro. ● The kitchen opens onto the dining and living areas. Vegetable baskets from L’Orangerie. ● Built-in furniture makes the most of the space. The painting of Lion’s Head is by Bridget.

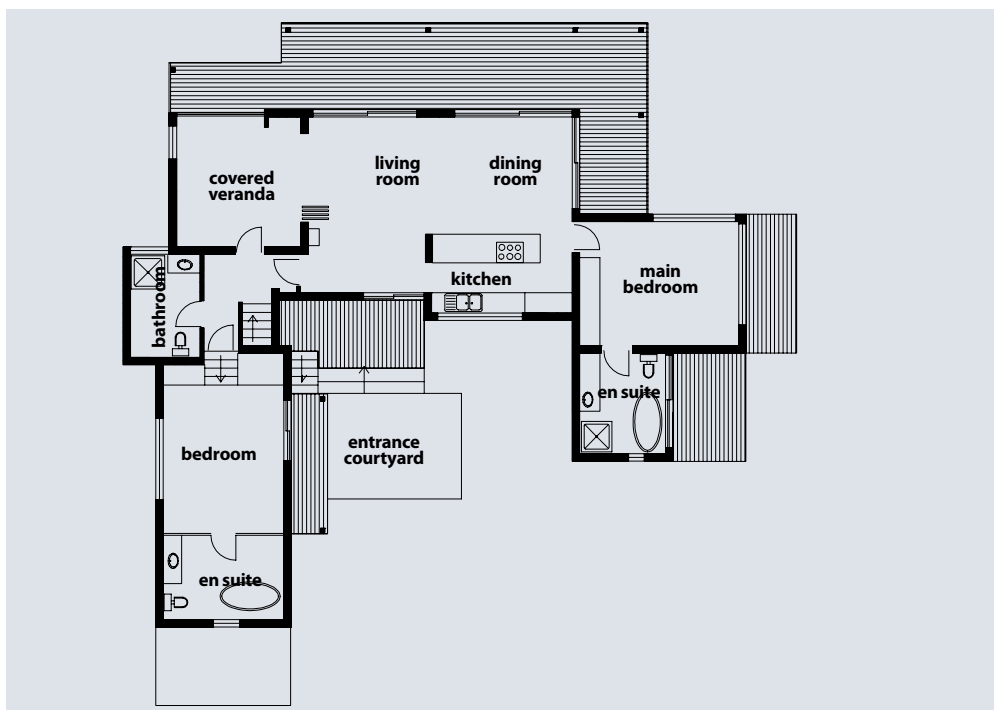








**LEFT AND BELOW:** ● The **main bathroom** has sliding glass doors that open onto an outdoor shower making the best possible use of the natural light. ● The **second bathroom** has an airy shower with one exterior glass wall and glass ceiling that create a wonderful feeling of being right in the dunes. **RIGHT:** ● Bridget found the throw used in the **guest bedroom** on her travels to Indonesia. The side table was made by Gustav Schilbach and the pots by Anthony Shapiro.



that wood would be too grand and that cement screed would be the most practical.”

Working with estate architect Steve Lennard, of Lennard & Lennard Architects and Planners, Bridget designed a home which, although compact, makes the most of the space and embraces the surroundings.

She found her experience in jewellery design invaluable. “It’s also three dimensional and rather similar to planning a house. You have to envisage how the light can be carried through the house, how to capture the views from every room and plan the flow of one space to the next.”

Having inherited a love of fabrics from her mother, Ruth Mendel who owned the iconic Mendelmats in Sea Point, Bridget chose a predominantly neutral scheme accessorised with loads of cushions and throws in various shades of blue. The living room is furnished with outdoor furniture which emphasises the casual yet stylish atmosphere. “I also found some amazing craftsmen in Cape Town, like cabinet-maker Gustav Schilbach, who made all the kitchen units as well as the bedroom furniture.”

Bridget’s recently acquired talent for pottery provided her with endless pots, which are prominently featured in the

interior. “I stumbled into ceramics by accident and now have my own space at Art in the Forest at Constantia Nek.” She’s working towards a second exhibition, the proceeds of which she hopes will fund the studies of a jewellery design student.

The house is a gem that sits unobtrusively in the landscape and, miraculously in windy Cape Town, provides sheltered spaces regardless of whether the wind is blowing in from the sea or from inland. When Bridget is at her pottery wheel, tending her kiln, or entertaining a group of artists, she pushes back the shutters and glass doors opening the house to the beach. Few houses are so at one with their surroundings.





## Get the look

Ceramic pots and bowls play a large role in the artistic look of this house. Create a similar feel with these buys **GH**

Glass bulb **vase**, R69,99,  
Mr Price Home.

**Pot cover** for a  
14-15cm pot,  
R90, Spree.

Medium **bowl** (set of four),  
R679, Mervyn Gers Ceramics.

Country Road Orino medium  
**vase**, R449, Woolworths.

Afrique **bowl** R255, Mick Haigh.

Aboda kaya **sugar  
bowl**, R450, Meekel.

Stoneware disk **vase**, from R459,  
La Grange Interiors.

**SOURCES** Anthony Shapiro anthony@artintheforest.com Art in the Forest 021 794 0281 Bridget Heneck Pottery 082 808 8306  
Gustav Schilbach ggbach@webafrica.org.za La Grange Interiors lagrangeinteriors.co.za L'Orangerie 021 761 8355 Lennard & Lennard  
Architects and Planners lennard.co.za Meekel meekel.co.za Mervyn Gers Ceramics mervyngers.com Mick Haigh michaelhaigh.co.za  
Mr Price Home mrphome.com Spree spree.co.za Woolworths woolworths.co.za



# GO WITH THE *flow*

Swimming pools are a good reflection of changing lifestyles, from the size of properties to the rise in utility costs

A strong focal point of the entertaining area, this rim-flow pool was designed by Peter Shedlock as a calm counterpoint to the ever-changing drama of the sea.





#### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**LEFT:** ● Part of a redesign of a Jo'burg house by Nick Cairns and architect Charles Marinier, this swimming pool is shallow with low steps to accommodate the owner's dogs who love to swim. ● For those who like to stay fit, a lap pool is the answer. As long as you have the length, a one-swimmer wide strip of water can be fitted into even the smallest gardens. ● If you live in a townhouse and your aim is just to cool off, then you don't need more than a narrow pool like this one built against the boundary wall.

One are the days when bigger was better and pools were restricted to the bottom of the garden – expensive chemical guzzlers that were largely abandoned once the children left home.

These days swimming pools are for more than cooling off; they're an extension of the architecture and an essential element around which entertaining revolves. As such, they're as affected by design and decor trends as interiors.

### SMALL CHANGE

Durban-based Peter Shedlock has been in the pool design and maintenance industry for more years than he cares to mention. He says it's rare these days to build a pool bigger than 6m by 3,5m or, at a stretch, 8m by 4m. "Smaller properties mean smaller pools, closer to the house and designed as an integral part of the architecture."

A smaller pool costs less to construct and is easier and cheaper to maintain. The bottom line is that today's designers concentrate on creating pools that are as simple to maintain and manage as possible. In keeping with this trend, many existing pools are being given a nip and tuck by constructing a smaller rectangular pool within the structure of the bigger pool.

### ALL HANDS ON DECK

Homeowners want their pools to be on the same level as their entertaining areas



to facilitate an easy flow from indoors to outdoors. The visual flow makes decking a popular choice. There are a number of different types of decking wood, says Peter, but ultimately it's smart to leave the wood untreated so the deck turns a soft, silvery grey over time. (The wood should, of course, be treated or fumigated by the supplier before it's installed.) The initial outlay for decking can be costly, but many would agree it's worth it.

Decks are wonderfully easy on the feet, rarely become slippery and they complement the natural or neutral style which more and more homeowners are choosing for their pools.

Decking also has other major advantages. If you're building a pool on a steep bank, the decking can be extended out, almost like a floating shelf, without the need for costly retaining walls. It also creates a living space that wasn't there before.

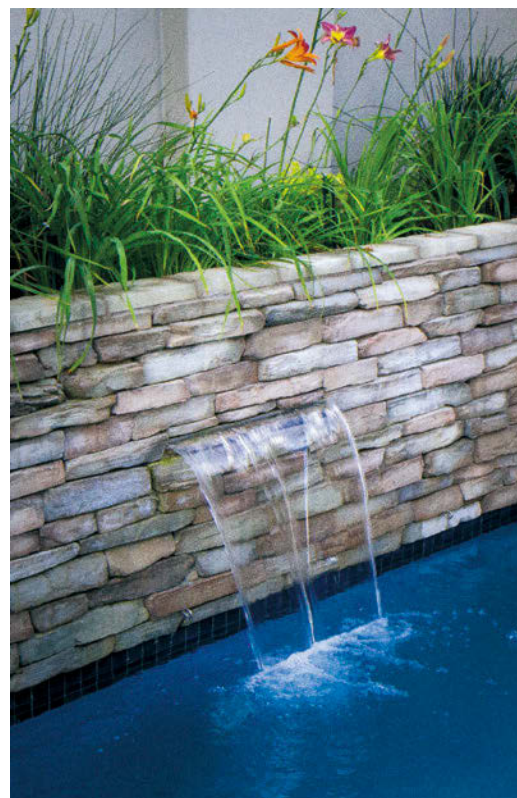
### RIM-FLOW DESIGNS

These are not only wonderfully stylish, but they're often a smart choice. Many architects are integrating rim-flow pools, because they act as a retaining wall at the end of a small property. In addition, there's an impression of there being no boundary to the pool, so the eye is drawn out to the horizon, making the space appear far larger. ▷



## POOL INSPIRATION

View stunning images of pools on our website [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za)



## LAP POOLS

A cleverly positioned lap pool can be beautiful and practical – the slim length works as a visual aid to extend the space. Generally around 15m by 1,5m in size, they're designed for those who want to exercise, but also work where there is limited space.

## NATURAL APPEAL

Popular today are pools that blend into the surroundings. Rather than being a stand-out feature, the pool, with the help of natural materials and unobtrusive tones, integrates into the garden.

Carefully chosen poolside plantings go a long way to enhance this. For a sculptural look choose succulent-type plants. For something more tropical, choose plants with big leaves and fronds.

The current look is clean, so in small spaces, keep finishes relatively monotone and the surrounds uncluttered.

Although decking is popular, Peter Shedlock says it's important to work with the style of your home. Decking doesn't

suit all genres, and often, flagstones or pavers are a better fit. Paving is also easy to maintain, non-slip and durable.

## POOL FINISHES

Most homeowners choose a light-grey or grey finish to the marble plaster. "The lighter shades of grey give a turquoise or sea-blue effect, and the darker greys give a charcoal or black look. The most popular is the grey or grey-charcoal, with white as a runner-up," says Peter. Very few people choose the sky blue marbellite of yesteryear as it looks too artificial.

And most view fibreglass in the same light. Peter says, "It makes it easier to control algae, but fibreglass isn't easier to maintain because you constantly need to watch your PH levels. Nor does it have improved longevity."

## RAISING THE TEMPERATURE

While a heated pool does extend the swimming season, not many install one; it's usually only those who're using their pool for exercise. This is due to cost of installation,

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● Timber decking helps to integrate a pool like this one, built by Peter Shedlock, with its surrounds. The shallow step provides a place for young children to play. ● By adding a letter-box spout, a small pool can double as a water feature. Design by The Friendly Plant. ● The most popular colour finish for pools today is charcoal grey, which gives a natural look, especially when combined with stone and decking.





**ABOVE:** Pools form an integral part of outdoor entertaining areas like this one designed by Union 3 and Metropole Architects, and built by East Coast Construction for the JR Property Group, which includes a rim-flow pool, Jacuzzi and a firepit. The outdoor fabrics, loungers and umbrellas are from Union 3, the botanical scatters are by Clinton Friedman.

the fact that you need a pool cover to retain the heat and the spike you'll see in your electricity bill. Depending on the pool size, the standard heating unit alone costs between R15 000 and R18 000. Solar panels are far less expensive to install and run and cost around R8 000. However, the pool pump must be powerful enough to pump the water to the solar panels and back.

## SALT CHLORINATION

Salt chlorination is a healthier choice, particularly if you have young children with allergies who swim regularly. On the flip side, it's more expensive and needs more maintenance. There's the initial cost of the chlorinator, and the chlorinator's cell lasts three to five years generally,

before it needs replacing. In short, it's not a money saver, but it's a healthy option.

## DETAILING

"There's a little leeway in terms of trends when it comes to scum-line tiles," says Peter. "Standard cobalt blue are traditional and popular; black slate or black porcelain tiles look contemporary; and cream or white shades give a more classic look."

It's not often that homeowners choose a unique element like a mosaic motif or design, but some do. The challenge is to ensure that it won't date. Considering mosaics have been around forever, a contemporary or classic mosaic is likely to hold its own.

The dual-purpose step – about 550cm by 550cm – which doubles as a seat, or shelf on

which small kids can play, has replaced the old Martini seat. Rockery-type fountains aren't popular anymore, but for those who want a water feature, a contemporary stainless-steel post-box style, where a sheet of water flows neatly through a post-box slit, works well.

## LIGHTING

For pools that form a central part of the entertaining area, interior lighting adds hugely to the ambience at night. LED lighting is the first choice for the pool in either blue or white. It's possible to retrofit a pool with lighting. For those who enjoy something a little alternative, strip lighting can be fitted under the lip of the deck that hangs over the pool.

## MAINTENANCE

It's relatively simple to keep the water clean and the pool in good condition. But once you let it slip, it's a headache to correct. "If you have trees overhanging the pool, you'll spend a fair amount of time cleaning out leaves, so ideally don't plant them there. Keep baskets clean, backwash weekly, do a manual backwash twice annually, and change the sand every two and half years. Chemical management is important. If you notice the water level dropping quickly, call in a pool company to assess the problem before it becomes a bigger one," says Peter.

## SAFETY

It's important to find out specific rules pertaining to pool safety in your municipality – this will relate to access to your pool from those outside your property. There can be significant liability issues in the case of an accident. It's not easy to secure a pool attractively but in this case aesthetics have to take a back seat by law. **GEH**

### SOURCES Charles Marinier

083 268 1649 **Clinton Friedman**

clintonfriedmancollections.com **East Coast**

**Construction** 0866 973 648 **JR Property**

**Group** jrpropertygroup.com **Metropole**

**Architects** metropolearchitects.com

**Nick Cairns** 076 724 6437 **Peter Shedlock**

031 579 4383 **The Friendly Plant**

thefriendlyplant.co.za **Union 3** union3.co.za



competition

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The first correctly completed entry to be drawn will win the prize. 2. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 3. One lucky reader will win a five-night stay for two sharing at Ibo Island Lodge, Mozambique, with full board, sparkling wine on arrival plus a private dinner with wine; two 60-minute full-body massages and a dolphin safari for two worth R45 000 and return flights and light air transfers worth R35 000. Total value of the package is R80 000. 4. The prize is not transferable and cannot be converted to cash. 5. Employees of Ibo Lodge, CTP Caxton, their advertising agencies and immediate families may not enter the competition. 6. Entries close on 31 January 2015. 7. Offer valid for SA residents only. 8. The winners will be notified telephonically and their names posted on our website. 9. To comply with the Consumer Protection Act, postal entries will no longer be allowed and the winner will be required to supply their ID number. 10. E-mail addresses are not mandatory. 11. The prize excludes any other expenses not mentioned; these are for the winner's own account. 12. Prize is valid for six months from the date of notification.



outdoor showers

# TAKE IT *outside*

Having a shower in the open air is the most refreshing way you can start and end a hot summer's day

## 1 TWICE AS NICE

Situated off the main bathroom of this Durban home, designed by M+M Design, this double outdoor shower by Jan Blok Landscaping features exposed plumbing and an ornate pot stand. It's shaded by a creeper-covered pergola and the decked floor is raised slightly for effective drainage. Not just gorgeous to look at, it has practical aspects such as the mirror, shelving for toiletries and two handy chairs.





## 2 A FRESH APPROACH

“As we spend lots of time in the swimming pool and Jacuzzi, in the garden and on the beach, we needed a place to rinse off salt, sand and chlorine,” explain the owners of this house on the KZN North Coast. The shower is positioned in a sunny corner of the veranda near the swimming pool. The stone wall by The Sandstone Story and large black tiles ensures that it’s in keeping with the modern style of the house. Decking by Affordable Sundecks adds comfort underfoot and allows water to drain easily – in this case straight into the indigenous garden. A wide ledge between the shower and the koi pond acts as a convenient seat while rinsing off sandy feet. The tiles, showerhead and tap are from Classic Trading.

## 3 AS NATURE INTENDED

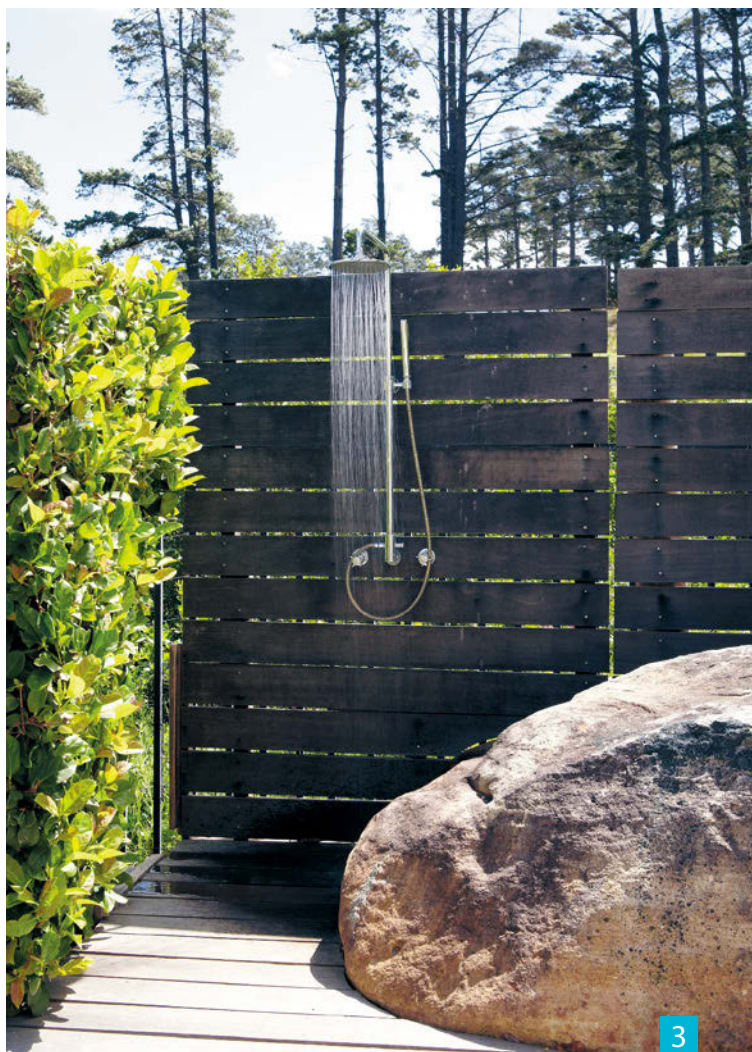
With a pine forest as a backdrop and an enormous sandstone boulder as a soap holder, this outdoor shower with a decked floor has a genuine feeling of communing with nature.

Making excellent use of his secluded site high up on the mountain, Hout Bay architect Paolo Deliperi designed a very natural outdoor shower with privacy provided by a wooden slatted wall at the back and a viburnum hedge to the left.

## 4 ALL DECKED OUT

Since competing in MNet’s *The Block*, Paolo Benetti-Longhini and Gary Velden Bekker have always incorporated an outdoor shower in their homes. In their home at Monaghan Farm in Gauteng, designed by architect Nadine Naidoo of Meik, the shower leads off the main bathroom onto a private wooden deck that’s protected from harsh west sun by a screen wall.

“We used teak decking which has taken on a beautiful silver-grey patina,” says Paolo. “It’s just the best to return home after a hard mountain bike ride and cool down in the shower while taking in the beautiful views.” The fittings are from Classic Trading in Woodmead, and the decking was supplied and installed by Grain & Co. The towel is from @home. ▷



### SELECTING SUITABLE FINISHES


Visit our website for expert tips from bathroom designer Sally Shaw  
[gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za)





## 5 A TROPICAL RETREAT

This space was originally just an alleyway which did no justice to the beautiful bathroom that opens out onto it. The owner contacted landscaper Craig de Necker of The Friendly Plant for help. "Initially we thought of turning this area into an atrium garden but, as there was access from the bathroom, it occurred to us to add a shower," says Craig. To make the most of the space he came up with a steel framework that houses the plumbing, as well as the wiring for the low-voltage down lighters that add subtle lighting at night, and supports large planters filled with fragrant star jasmine.

A glass shelf for soaps rests on top of the pillar onto which the mixer is attached. Beyond the shower is a gabion wall against which he planted *Monstera deliciosa*, agapanthus, shrubs and groundcovers. Basket from @home, towels from Mr Price Home. 

### TIPS FOR DESIGNING AN OUTDOOR SHOWER

**Nadine Naidoo, principal architect at Meik, shares some practical advice:**

- First decide what type of space you want. A bright, sunny shower space or a cooler south-facing environment with lush shade planting?
- Privacy is paramount so look at areas like courtyards and use features like screens and suitable planting to block out the neighbours.
- A hot shower will require plumbing connected to a geyser or a solar-heated water source.
- A non-slip surface is essential. Decking is great underfoot and doesn't absorb heat but it requires more maintenance than tiles.
- If you want to shower in the evening include soft lighting close to foliage to create a tranquil atmosphere.
- Fittings and drains should be easily accessible to facilitate any repairs.
- Include features to hold soaps, toiletries and towels.

**SOURCES** @home [home.co.za](http://home.co.za) **Affordable Sundecks**

[affordablesundecks.com](http://affordablesundecks.com) **Classic Trading** [classictrading.net](http://classictrading.net)

**Grain & Co** 082 497 9477 **Jan Blok Landscaping** [janblok.co.za](http://janblok.co.za)

**Meik** [meik.co.za](http://meik.co.za) or 011 025 8318 or 082 809 1970 **M+M Design** [mmdesigns.co.za](http://mmdesigns.co.za) **Mr Price Home** [mrphome.co.za](http://mrphome.co.za) **Paolo Deliperi** 021 790 0593 **The Friendly Plant** [thefriendlyplant.co.za](http://thefriendlyplant.co.za) or

082 805 0910 **The Sandstone Story** [sandstonesupplies.co.za](http://sandstonesupplies.co.za)





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## OUTDOOR CHIC

Elegance was a major trend with all-weather furniture in designs that would not look out of place indoors. Danish company Cane-line's Conic suite was the perfect example of this. Who would think that furniture this stylish could be left outside year round?



# SHOW stoppers

Held in Cologne, Germany, spoga+gafa is Europe's leading outdoor lifestyle exhibition showcasing the latest trends in outdoor furniture, garden and leisure equipment from established brands all over the world. These were some of the trends we spotted



## IN A GOOD LIGHT

What would the outdoors be without good lighting? Designs varied from these lamp-shaped lights from Elho to the subtle nature of Ethimo's ceramic pathway lights.



## A BIT ON THE SIDE

Side tables are the new outdoor accessory and every imaginable design was on display. Adding one of these new designs like the Smart (above) and Clessidra (top) side tables from Ethimo in Italy is a great way to update the look of existing outdoor furniture.



## COOL COLOURS

Pastels predominated in outdoor accessories with aqua, pink, lilac and sage all predicted to be big in 2015. The Divine weatherproof footstool from Cane-line was a hit.



## ROLL OUT THE KITCHEN

While we're familiar with cooking over coals and on gas braais Indu+ from Belgium took outdoor cooking one step further with trolleys like this Tom Boy. Available in different woods including teak, they can be customised with a variety of induction hobs including wok and teppanyaki versions. All you need is an electrical connection.

## LOOKING BACK

The more we're bombarded by technology, the more we crave the old and familiar. Nostalgia played a big role in many furniture designs like the Click Sun Lounger from Houe in Denmark which featured plastic clip-on slats in a range of colours.



## ON THE EDGE

2015 is going to be The Year of the Balcony, according to Elho, one of Europe's biggest suppliers of containers. This includes designs that clip on to balcony railings and wall-mounted and stacking versions, providing everything you need to green up small outdoor spaces.



## HIT THE ROAD

The Youngstar section highlighted innovative products by up-and-coming designers. Toni Bettermann from Germany designed this fold-up, easily transportable balcony set on wheels. It consists of a wide-sling seat, a convenient ledge for drinks, a canopy and space for plants which, as they're watered by a drip system, virtually look after themselves. When you move, fold it up, wheel it out and set it up in your new home. **GH**

**SOURCES** Cane-line [cane-line.com](http://cane-line.com) Elho [elho.com](http://elho.com) Ethimo [ethimo.com](http://ethimo.com) Houe [houe.com](http://houe.com) Indu+ [induplus.eu](http://induplus.eu) spoga+gafa [spogagafa.de](http://spogagafa.de)  
Toni Bettermann [schneeberger-auf-reisen.de](http://schneeberger-auf-reisen.de)



**easy** arrangements

# TAKE A

# *Leaf*

During the holidays you don't want to bother with fussy flower arrangements.

Create a look that's simple yet chic using greenery from your garden. Cape Town floral artist Heike le Cordeur shows how easy it is





2

**H**eike le Cordeur combines technical savvy with an artistic background when arranging unique floral displays for weddings and functions. “I consider myself a flower designer rather than a florist,” she says. Her business, Fleur le Cordeur, started four years ago when she created displays for her own wedding. Now she’s booked up to a year in advance for clients who come to her with instructions to create a ‘vibe’.

To show you just how easy it is to turn greenery from your garden into eye-catching modern displays, she went out into her own Paarl garden and used vases from her cupboard.

**1** The idea here was to style an arrangement that looks professional, but is simple to achieve. She used an arum leaf, *Philadelphus coronarius* (boerejasmyne) and asparagus fern. “I love the modern shape of this vase and the grey is a gentle colour that nevertheless makes the white of the blossoms pop.”

## TIP BOX

**Heike has the following tips to make your foliage arrangements last longer:**

- Add a tablespoon of regular bleach to your water. This helps to keep the water clean and your foliage fresher for longer – this is important if you’re using a clear glass vase.
- A tablespoon of white sugar in your water ensures that the flowers and foliage stay fresh for about three to five days longer.
- Change the water in your vase every three days. Remember to add a tablespoon of bleach and sugar every time you change the water.



3

**2** This elegant milk glass vase with clear glass handle and foot is an original 1940s vintage piece. “I love the stateliness of this vase,” says Heike. “It looks very fragile, but it’s survived for 75 years.” She twined the ivy around the handle for a relaxed arrangement. “The vase is stiff and formal so I softened it with the vine and included ivy, a small delicious monster leaf, reindeer fern and a poppy pod and leaf.”

**3** “This vase has a very narrow neck so I wanted to add a horizontal element,” says Heike. “To anchor the arrangement I used a delicious monster leaf, and some muehlenbeckia with another long stem of muehlenbeckia on the side. Rather than a lot of leaves and foliage to balance it on the other side, I simply used a single stem of clivia seed pods.” **GH**

**SOURCE** Fleur le Cordeur [fleurlecordeur.co.za](http://fleurlecordeur.co.za)



# SUN'S OUT *fun's out*

When friends drop by, celebrate a truly African summer with these alfresco buys



Find cool refuge under this striped **umbrella**, R329,99, from Mr Price Home.



Outdoor **platters** (four-pack), R69,95, from Woolworths are perfect for serving poolside snacks.



When the occasion calls for something a little more suave, this **table**, R6 000, and **chairs**, R1 300 each, from Mobelli are the answer.



Serve salads in style in this bamboo **salad bowl**, R149,99, from Mr Price Home.



Be the talk of the town with craft beer **tasting glasses** with paddle, R269, from @home.

Top up ice cubes from this **ice bucket** with **scoop**, R250, from Woolworths.



A host is not a host without a Smokey Mountain **Cooker**, R6 519,66, from Weber.



**Fire box and table**, R14 995, from Bloc Outdoor makes gathering around the fire so stylish.



You can't predict the weather but you can count on KEF Ventura 5 outdoor weatherproof **speakers**, R5 280 a pair, from Ultra Sound.

## SETTING UP YOUR PARTY

Karen Short of By Word of Mouth shares her tips.

- Make provision for an unexpected rainstorm – an undercover (or partly covered) area is ideal.
- A dedicated braai area, be it built in or not, is essential. Create a space where you can keep all the tools in one place and in easy reach of the braai – perhaps by hanging them on the wall.
- A fridge/freezer to keep the drinks cool and to store ice is important.
- Built-in speakers for music are great – alternatively, portable versions will do the trick.





The grass will always be greener on your side with DuraTurf's 1,5 x 2m Leisure Grass outdoor rug, from Builders Warehouse.

**WIN!** We're giving away a Duraturf mat, valued at R479. To enter, **SMS TURF**, your name, city and e-mail address to 48406. An SMS costs R1,50. Errors will be billed and free SMSes do not apply. For Ts&Cs, see page 127

● Red striped basket, R389, Santos.



Don't be caught in the rain! Let Terrace Leisure's Oasis **gazebo** with awning, R2 999, from Makro provide shelter.

Chill out with the Keter **Cool Bar**, R1 299, from Makro.



Love Home Turkish **tea glasses**, R199,95 for set of six, from Entrepo can be used for shots as well.

Make preparing food outdoors an experience with the Allegro **wood-fired oven**, R43 149, from Alfa Pizza.



Bubbly is best served chilled. Champagne **cooler** with rope handles, R699, from @home.



Make snacking fun with these colourful **snack picks**, R120, from Woolworths.



Form meets function with the Kitchen Craft **pitcher** and stackable **tumbler kit**, R479, from Yuppiechef.com.



Enjoy music in the shade with this Terrace Leisure bluetooth **speaker**, R599, from Makro, which fits on most umbrella poles.



Terrace Leisure Bluetooth Patio **Music table**, R1 999, from Makro, is a multifunctional must-have. **GH**



Braai anywhere with the Lotus **Grill**, R4 499, Mobelli.



**SOURCES** @home home.co.za Alfa Pizza 082 377 8626 Bloc Outdoor blocoutdoor.co.za Builders Warehouse builders.co.za By Word of Mouth bywordofmouth.co.za DuraTurf duraturfsa.co.za Entrepo entrepo.co.za Makro makro.co.za Mobelli mobelli.co.za Mr Price Home mrphome.com Santos santos.co.za Ultra Sound ultrasound.co.za Weber weber.co.za Woolworths woolworths.co.za Yuppiechef.com yuppiechef.com



kitchens for entertaining

# KITCHEN *party*

Although different in style, these versatile kitchens were both designed with easy entertaining in mind







## INFORMAL GATHERINGS

“I’d call this country with a twist,” says interior designer Jeanne Stravino, of Room 31 Interiors, of her client’s refurbished kitchen in Morningside, Jo’burg. “My brief was to update the look and feel of the existing kitchen, bearing in mind that the family enjoys entertaining in this space. I wanted to create a more open, contemporary feel without detracting from its charm.”

Jeanne began with reconstituted oak floors from Forest Flooring to give a warm, inviting look. “We used this in the adjoining living areas too, which not only unifies the space but is practical for everyday traffic.”

“The kitchen has a lovely flow, as it opens onto the living, dining and patio areas. It’s literally the hub of the house and the separate scullery allows for an uncluttered open-plan space.” To enhance the country elements, all the cabinetry was painted by Diane Halfon and Jacob Radebe of Fresh Fx, and Jeanne retained the clients’ cross-back chairs. Glass pendants from The Gatehouse, a glass splashback and fresh aqua-blue wall colour

## JEANNE’S POINTS TO CONSIDER

- As with any kitchen, think about the flow, where people will congregate, and how best to arrange the triangle of stove, sink and fridge.
- I always keep accessibility in mind; you want the everyday things like glassware and utensils within easy reach.
- Separate sculleries are the best way to keep open-plan areas clutter-free – a big plus when the party’s in the kitchen.

all add to the updated yet lived-in feel. Jeanne also refurbished the existing dining table and added a touch of colour, “It’s sufficiently elegant to enjoy a dinner party with friends, yet it’s easy-going enough for Sunday brunches with the whole family.” ▷

**SOURCES** Forest Flooring [forestflooring.co.za](http://forestflooring.co.za) Fresh Fx 082 552 3819 Room 31 Interiors [room31.co.za](http://room31.co.za) The Gatehouse [thegatehouse.co.za](http://thegatehouse.co.za)









## ROOM TO MOVE

The starting point for this kitchen, designed and manufactured by Create, was the double-volume living area. Part of a new build in Jo'burg's Waterfall Equestrian Estate, the clients wanted a contemporary yet welcoming feel. "Together with the adjacent living rooms, it's essentially one large open-plan space," explains Create's kitchen designer Herman Malherbe. "Taking the strong architectural elements into account, we situated the island unit in the centre, which allows ample space for people to pass each other."

The cooking area, with a beautiful view of the garden, is directly opposite the eat-in counter – and is also a layout that's conducive to family breakfasts, school projects or sundowners with friends. This clever galley-type section links directly to the patio at one end, and a walk-in pantry and scullery at the other.

"It was important that the island didn't appear dwarfed by the surroundings, and we enhanced the server by adding a wrap-around top made of walnut. While the owners wanted a streamlined, neutral finish, we agreed that some wooden accents would suit the contemporary country feel."



## HERMAN'S POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Allow ample worktop surfaces for prepping and serving. Where space is limited, a high-level breakfast nook can double as a serving area for guests.
- Ensure that your passageways are sufficiently wide so that movement isn't restricted.
- A combination of ambient and task lighting works well and allows a softer mood for entertaining.

Technistone worktops and satin-ducoed cabinetry add to the uncluttered appearance, as do the integrated appliances. Elegant touches by decorator Jacqui Serena include bar chairs from Spazio and the pendant lights from High Thorn. **GEH**

**SOURCES** Create [cre-8.co.za](http://cre-8.co.za) High Thorn [highthorn.co.za](http://highthorn.co.za) Jacqui Serena Interiors [jacquiserenainterior.co.za](http://jacquiserenainterior.co.za) Spazio [spazio.co.za](http://spazio.co.za)



# A fresh OUTLOOK



Jo'burg interior decorator Caroline Richardson decided it was high time the veranda of her Parktown North home had a revamp



BEFORE







**“THIS VERANDA** really just needed some pulling together,” says homeowner and interior decorator Caroline Richardson. “It had been furnished with some existing cane furniture but one armchair had found its way inside. We wanted two of the same armchairs to create a more balanced seating arrangement plus the coffee table was far too small for the area and the cushions were faded from the sun. I could see that a simple reorganisation and a touch of colour was all it would take to bring it up to date.”

#### HOW THIS SPACE WENT FROM DULL TO INVITING:

To establish a symmetrical seating layout, Caroline replaced the lone armchair with two Malawian wicker chairs which she positioned side by side to face the cane chairs. Instead of replacing the metal table, a favourite piece from designer James B Hannah, Caroline found another table with similar dimensions at Pierre Cronje. Together the two function as a larger coffee table with proportions that complement the space. “Besides being budget conscious, I believe it pays to assess what existing items can be retained because very often unlikely partnerships make for a far more interesting look,” says Caroline.

The seat cushions were reupholstered in luxurious taupe linen that Caroline bought on sale at Mavromac. “For the scatter cushions I specifically chose fabrics with colours that would

pick up those in the garden,” explains Caroline. “The fabrics in different patterns both have purply pink accents which echo the shade of the bougainvillea.”

To soften the terracotta floor tiles Caroline created one large mat from two mats that were worn in places. “I puzzle-pieced the squares that were still in a good condition until I had the size I wanted,” explains Caroline, “and then I simply attached them with clear cable ties that are barely noticeable.”

**“MY VERANDA IS NOW** a fresh, inviting space which blends with the interior living areas as well as the garden,” says Caroline. “We probably use it more than our living room and even in winter we’re out here basking in the sun.” **GH**

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Climbing roses were planted specifically so that they would peep up over the concrete balustrade. The wooden bowl containing the succulents is from Amatuli. The walls were painted in Rock Sutherland from Plascon. **ABOVE:** Caroline found the Malawian wicker chairs at Weylandts and the scatter cushions were made up using fabric off-cuts from The Fabric House. The woven side table came from Lions Trading Post in the Midlands and the wire one is from La Grange Interiors. It holds a ceramic vessel from Weylandts.

**SOURCES** Amatuli [amatuli.co.za](http://amatuli.co.za) Caroline Richardson 083 273 1408 or [caroline@richardsonfamily.co.za](mailto:caroline@richardsonfamily.co.za) James B Hannah [jbhdesign.squarespace.com](http://jbhdesign.squarespace.com) La Grange Interiors [lagrangeinteriors.co.za](http://lagrangeinteriors.co.za) Lions River Trading Post [lionsrivertradingpost.co.za](http://lionsrivertradingpost.co.za) Mavromac [mavromac.co.za](http://mavromac.co.za) Pierre Cronje [pierrecronje.co.za](http://pierrecronje.co.za) Plascon [plascon.co.za](http://plascon.co.za) The Fabric House [thefabrichouse.co.za](http://thefabrichouse.co.za) Weylandts [weylandts.co.za](http://weylandts.co.za)



## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Ceramic marker
- White plates
- Ceramic paint – gloss enamel
- Rust-Oleum's Painter's Touch spray paint
- Sticky foam letters
- Sponge
- Pencil
- Masking tape
- Porcelain art pen

## EAT ME PLATE

1. Wash the plate thoroughly.
2. Apply the sticky foam letters, judging the distance between the letters by eye and according to what you are writing.
3. Using even strokes, spray with spray paint and leave to dry.
4. While the paint is still a bit tacky, very carefully remove the foam stickers to reveal the white writing underneath.

## HONEYCOMB PLATE

1. Take a honeycomb stencil and place it as evenly as possible on the plate.
2. Pencil in all the lines of the pattern.
3. Remove the stencil and go over the lines with a ceramic marker pen (we used a Nerchau art pen in blue).
4. Allow to dry for four hours. Place in a cold oven then set the temperature to 160°C. Heat for 90 minutes. Turn off the heat, open the oven door and allow the plate to cool in the oven.

## STRIPED PLATE

1. Using a ruler and pencil draw lines across the plate.
2. Mask the lines with blue masking tape.
3. Put a blob of gloss enamel (we used Americana gloss enamels – deep midnight blue) – on each line on opposite sides of the plate.
4. Use a sponge to drag the colour across the plate to create an uneven pattern.
5. Air cure for 21 days or allow to dry for 48 hours before baking in a 160°C oven for 30 minutes. Turn off the heat and allow to cool in the oven.

\*PLEASE NOTE these plates are for decorative purposes only and shouldn't come into contact with food. **GH**

# LOOKING DISHY

Create an eye-catching display with these fun and easy-to-do plate designs by Sacha Olivier





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# A TASTE OF THE *outdoors*

There are a few things in life that are quite as charming as feasting alfresco. Invite friends over for a pizza with these great buys

Large hanging lanterns, wine decanter, glasses, tray and napkins from Mr Price Home. Patterned bolster cushions in the background and the small wooden serving boards from @home. Pizza oven from Keith Hamilton. Pizza paddle from The Culinary Equipment Company. Entertaining area designed by Jacqueline Bender of Motife Interiors.





## YOU'RE INVITED

Jo'burg interior designer **Jacqueline Bender** of **Motife Interiors** shares her tips on how to

create a fully functioning outdoor entertaining area complete with pizza oven and built-in seating:

- Choose a spot where there are trees to offer shade during the day.
- Ensure the area is well lit for evening entertaining.
- Fit the area around your pizza oven with running water, lights and storage for your utensils and other necessities so you don't have to run back and forth from the house.
- Make use of recycled materials like leftover gravel, wood or old doors such as the ones I used here on the serving area.
- Use concrete slabs for your countertops and built-in seating as they're hard wearing and not affected by weather. **GH**



**Chair pad\***, R99,99, Mr Price Home.



Round wooden **chopping board**, R350, Woolworths.



Aristo's Outdoor Range Toronto **oil lamp**, R1 830, Gardens & Roses.



**Lantern**, R250, SHF.



French **decanter set**, R499,95, Entrepo.



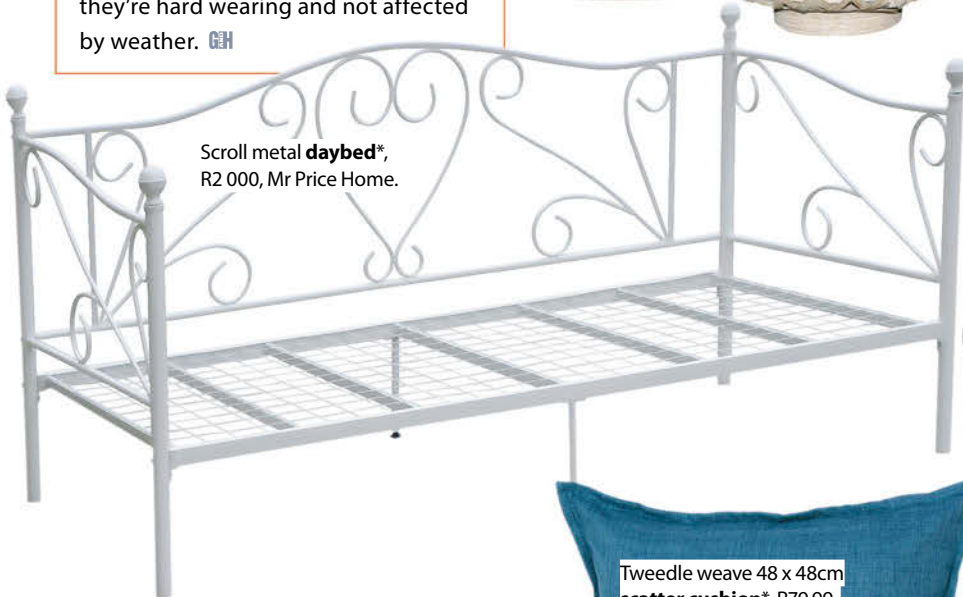
Cedarpoint Amelia countertop **basin**, R699,90, Italtile.



Lotus Grill **pizza stone**, R1 399, Mobelli.



Scroll metal **daybed\***, R2 000, Mr Price Home.



Tweedle weave 48 x 48cm **scatter cushion\***, R79,99, Mr Price Home.



Cotton **tea towels**, R69,95, Woolworths.



**SOURCES** @home home.co.za

**Entrepo** entrepo.co.za **Gardens**

**& Roses** gnrsa.co.za **Italtile** italtile.co.za

**Keith Hamilton** keithhamilton.co.za **Mobelli**

mobelli.co.za **Motife Interiors** 072 191 1031

or bender@telkomsa.net **Mr Price Home**

mrphome.com **SHF** shf.co.za **The Culinary**

**Equipment Company** culinary.co.za

**Woolworths** woolworths.co.za





# A *Floral* LEGACY

The many 'rooms' of this beautifully laid out garden at Rustenberg Manor are a visual delight all year round

**A**s you wander through the extensive gardens surrounding this historic house, it's hard to believe that Rozanne Barlow, who's spent the last seven years bringing fresh new life to this magnificent seventy-something garden, is a self-taught gardener. "I was young and determined to make the garden surrounding our first home beautiful, and as I went along, I became hooked and dare I say rather obsessed," she says.

Renovating the old Schoongezicht garden adjacent to the winery on the family farm, Rustenberg Wine Estate outside Stellenbosch, has helped her tremendously but it was still a mammoth task. It

was Simon's mother, Pamela Barlow, who, with the help of Sheila Heaney, a florist from Bloemfontein, first established the garden. Although many of the elements were inspired by Pamela Barlow's visits to gardens like Sissinghurst in the UK and Ninfa in Italy, Sheila is credited for much of the design detail. One of the garden's unique features is its layout. Changes in levels entice you from one garden 'room' to another while there are tantalising glimpses of the surrounding fields and farmlands.

Accentuating the layout are the mature trees planted by the Barlows since the 1940s. The most noteworthy are the ancient oaks and the white chestnut, the loveliest tree in the garden, >





## Who lives here

Simon and Rozanne Barlow with their three dogs and six pest-control chickens who roam freely.

## The garden

A large English-style farm garden at Rustenberg Manor House, divided into a number of garden 'rooms' each with its own mood and colour scheme.



**MAIN PICTURE:** The sunken garden. **THIS PAGE, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:** ● A lead urn is framed by an arch of weigelia and a row of terracotta pots filled with campanula add charm to the walkway. ● The gate fronted by white rose 'Félicité Perpétue' leads to the surrounding fields. Bush honeysuckle and a pink rose, 'Bourbon Queen', mingle on the tall obelisk on the right.





and of course the allée of cypresses which catch the eye wherever you are in the garden. However Rozanne feels the camellias and old roses are also treasures and enhance the atmosphere. She adds that they have been very fortunate as the garden has such good ‘bones’ which has made her and her right-hand man Pietman Diener’s task so much easier.

Their transformation of the garden began seven years ago. Working their way through the garden they pruned and shaped shrubs and trees and bagged up the perennials and bulbous plants like agapanthus, daylilies and dietes. Then they tackled the soil, digging in masses of manure and compost and finally addressed the hard landscaping.

“It has been and still is a very creative challenge,” explains Rozanne. Some places like the paved area outside the library where pink and purple verberna and purple nierembergia ▷

**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:** ● Sleek and simple, like neatly cut sandwiches, this parterre of salt bush edged with box, is backed by one of a number of *Paulownia tomentosa* trees. Beyond is the allée of cypresses. To the left the high retaining wall forms one side of a long climber-clad pergola which leads ultimately to the Almond Walk. ● Water is fed by gravity from the natural pond above into this small formal water feature, set into an arch in the high brick retaining wall. The pink rose, ‘Paul Transon’ climbs into the *P. tomentosa* tree while on the right is a bushy *Rosa mutabilis*. Trained across the face of the wall is *Rosa* ‘Veilchenblau’.







**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● A mix of old-fashioned roses, seasonal flowering shrubs and perennials like yellow coreopsis and *Penstemon digitalis* fill the wide borders on either side of the lawned area. ● 'La Follette'. ● 'Blush Damask'. ● Looking back across the Almond Walk border towards the top lawn in front of the homestead. ● An ornate gate frames a view from the Cherry Courtyard.





and irises still pop up through the gaps in the slasto have, for the time being, been left much as they were in Pamela Barlow's day. In others they've made structural alterations as well as changes to the selection of plants, the most notable being in the perennial borders in the 100m-long Almond Walk while several of the garden 'rooms' were completely overhauled.


One of the more impressive makeovers was to Hill Walk, a rather unstructured area with a mix of azaleas and magnolias. This is now a cool, calm parterre garden planted with grey-leaved salt bush. The rectangular, formal white garden has also been redesigned to make it more interesting and there's a more pleasing plant palette within the clipped privet hedges. Simplicity is the name of the game in the borders around the large circular lawn where mass plantings of hydrangeas, *Libertia grandiflora* and Japanese anemones thrive in the shade of the old oak trees.

Rozanne and Pietman are hands-on gardeners and even on cool misty days, are often found in gumboots, secateurs in hand, working side by side with a team of seven gardeners, who share the work load at Schoongezicht and Rustenberg.

As they're both so passionate about plants, they're always looking for less common gems. Pietman has also introduced many eye-catching ornamental grasses, while old roses, of which there were already a number in the garden, have become a passion for both of them. They propagate all their own plants – any extra are sold at the annual rare plant sale. They use fallen oak leaves,

which are made into leaf mould, as their potting medium.

Every year the entire garden is cut back hard as everything grows abundantly thanks to the fertile soil. They are also quite ruthless about replacing plants that don't perform well. "We also never spray as the garden is too large," says Rozanne. "Instead we condition the soil with masses of compost. As a result, the garden is a haven for wildlife and home to many owls and garden birds. Guinea fowl and Egyptian geese (who raise their young on the pond each year) are always around as are the pesky porcupines – which have cleared all my beautiful Louisiana irises – and moles galore. All bring joy – some when they arrive and some when they leave!

"The garden is always in transition," she says. "We have some great ideas for the future. One of these is to turn the old tennis court area into a reflective pond." 

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● A simple grill in the wall gives a glimpse of the farmlands adding an air of intrigue to the sunken garden; the pink rose is 'La Folette', while that on obelisk is 'Bourbon Queen'. ● A dramatic red *Salvia gesnerifolia* brings the red border to life. Other recent additions include *Odontonema strictum* (cardinal's guard), fuchsias, red cannas and plum-coloured berberis.

● A white bench was strategically placed at the end of the white garden to draw visitors into the enclosed space where pale-yellow flowering plants like *Sisyrinchium striatum*, phlomis and thalictrum lift the green and white planting.



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hanging baskets

# GETTING THE *hang* OF IT

Hanging baskets have been around forever, but as gardens get smaller, more and more gardeners are turning to them to green up walls, create additional planting space, and in some cases, just to try something new

## ROMANTIC INTERLUDE

An old chandelier makes a stunning hanging container! Use chicken wire or ordinary wire to close up the spaces between the arms to form a basket.

Simply plant cascading plants like ivy, lobelia and convolvulus in small pots and push these into the 'basket'. Disguise the pots with moss. Water them daily and feed monthly with Nitrosol.





## SALAD DAYS

Tiny garden with no space for veggies? Plant up a basket with a variety of edible plants – different types of lettuce look particularly attractive – and hang it on an east- or north-facing wall as edible plants require at least four hours of morning sun.

Water the containers daily in summer and every other day in winter – even when it rains. Feed once a month with a liquid fertiliser like Nitrosol.

## UP IN THE AIR

Who says you have to use a basket? Here a twig heart has been used as a container for a pretty yellow oncidium orchid, a tough epiphyte that can be grown outdoors in bright light and hot conditions, according to orchid expert Tinus Oberholzer of Plantae Orchids.

You can either take the plant out of its plastic pot and tie it to the twig heart (as shown here), or you can hide the pot with green moss. Spray the open roots daily or water pots twice a week in summer and once a week in winter.

Adding an ethereal quality is old man's beard, *Tillandsia usneoides* and rosette-shaped *Tillandsia himnorum*. Mist these when you water the orchids. ▷







## TRADITIONAL BEAUTY

You can't beat the spectacle of a large basket overflowing with flowers. The secret is to establish the water requirements of the plants and group those with the same needs together.


Petunias, cyclamens and gerberas hate wet feet so don't include them in a basket with water-loving plants like pansies, lobelia, fuchsia, begonias and roses. Water petunias on demand – stick your finger in the soil to feel if there's any moisture – and only water when it's dry right through.

To get a show like this, you need to feed plants religiously once a month with a liquid feed like Nitrosol or Seagro.



## SMILE FOR THE BIRDIE

Give an ornamental birdcage a new lease on life and use it to display potted plants like a striking orchid or cascading varieties like million bells, parrot beak ferns, fuchsias, trailing roses and ivy-leaved pelargoniums.

Here we've used a bowl of easy-to-care-for echeverias. Birdcage from Mr Price Home. 

**SOURCES** Mr Price Home [mrphome.com](http://mrphome.com) Plantae Orchids [plantae.co.za](http://plantae.co.za)





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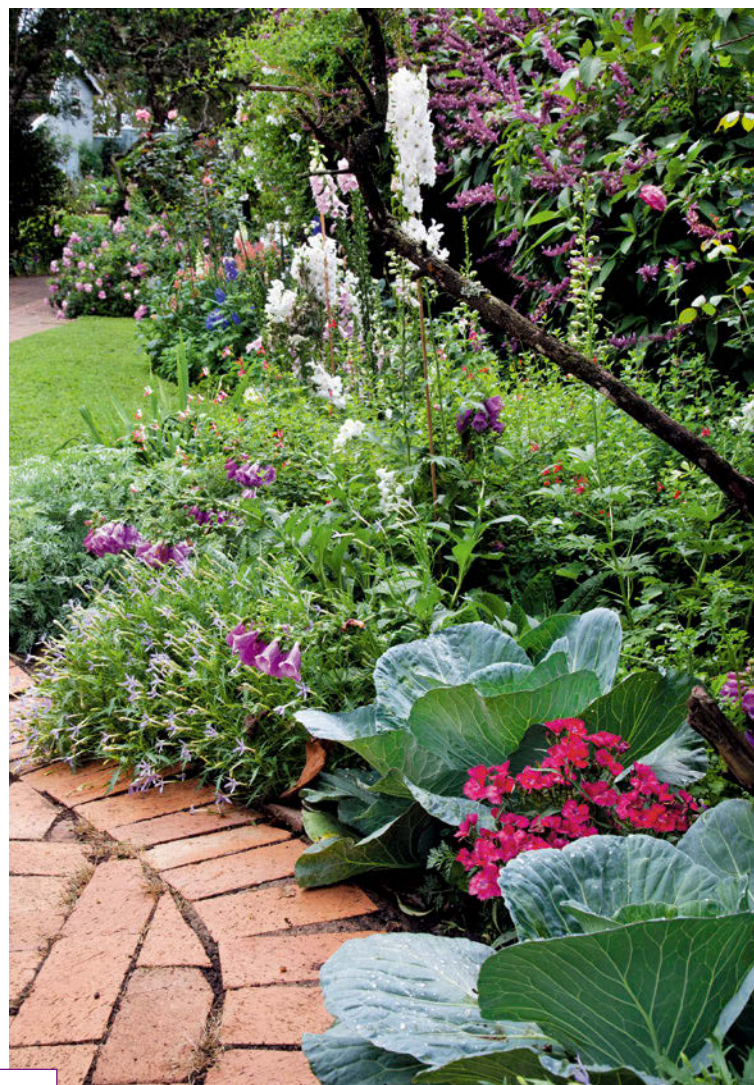
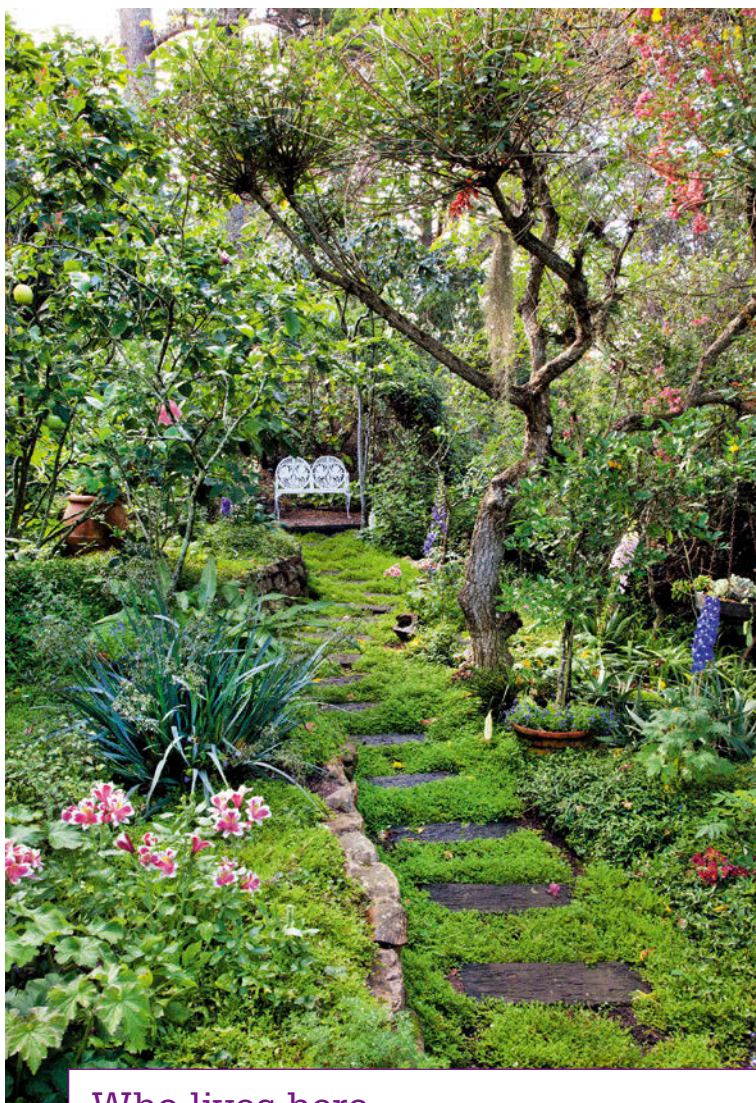
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# STRAIGHT FROM *the heart*

It was the potential of the land that drew Sharon Goss to this property decades ago but it's her passion for plants that has transformed it into a flourishing garden





## Who lives here

Sharon Goss and her grown-up children, Struan and Cayley, with their Border Collies Gatsby and Carling and cats, Russia, Panda, Tiny and Biscuit. Parts of the house and a cottage are run as a B&B called The Goss House.

## The garden

A one-acre garden in Kloof, KZN, bisected by a stream. A marshy area has been turned into a large pond which is home to swans and ducks and welcomes a host of other winged visitors.

“My love for gardening started in my childhood,” explains Sharon Goss. “I can vividly remember my mother ordering seedlings from England for our garden in what was then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Her favourite flowers were snapdragons while my father loved fuchsias.”

In her garden in Kloof, outside Durban, where she’s lived for 27 years, Sharon still favours the English annuals and perennials so beloved by her parents, but she’s quick to point out that she tries to choose plants that are indigenous, particularly those endemic to the area. “I think people need to understand which plants grow well in a particular region or climate,” she says. “There’s no point in planting something that’s endemic to the Western Cape in a garden in KwaZulu-Natal. That kind of plant will suit a Mediterranean climate but won’t survive six months here.” ▷



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A miniature wrought-iron gazebo adds a touch of whimsy to this pond. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

- This is Sharon’s favourite spot in the garden and is planted with a variety of her favourite flowering plants such as alstroemeria, St Johns roses and Canterbury bells. The Brazilian coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*) was transplanted from her mother’s garden.
- Sharon plants herbs and vegetables, like these cabbages, alongside flowers in the garden.
- Old farm implements add decorative touches throughout the garden.





**THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT:** ● From an archway steps lined by erigeron lead down to a bed of 'My Granny' roses. ● Foxgloves and poppies add bright colour to this bed near the swimming pool.

Unlike most people who buy a property for the house, this one was chosen for the land. "It had so much potential with a perennial spring that provides plenty of water as well as a marshy area, which has been turned into a permanent pond. It was also completely shielded from the neighbours," she says. In those days there was no garden to speak of – Sharon thinks it was the tail end of a farm – and she's spent years learning about the sunlight and shade and the climate and the soil to create the flourishing garden it is today.

Sharon loves flowers whether they're indigenous, exotic, annual or perennial – a fact which is immediately apparent from the swathes of colour which grace the one-acre garden. "I never cut flowers for the vase from my garden, strangely enough," she confesses. "I feel flowers that have grown in the garden should stay there." Although flowers are her first love, she plants vegetables and herbs in among them, as a bed sporting several enormous cabbages and foxgloves attests.

The garden has several distinct areas and Sharon's favourite is

a charming spot that seems straight from the English country gardens of her mother's dreams. This area was designed around a Brazilian coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*) transplanted from her mother's garden and a dry stone wall inspired by a trip to England.

The fact that her garden attracts so much wildlife, including vervet monkeys, butterflies, bees, birds, geese and ducks, brings Sharon a lot of pleasure. "Every evening at least 50 Natal white-faced whistling ducks visit the pond as well as African wild ducks, African spoonbills and a variety of kingfishers," she says.

The four-legged members of the household are as much a part of the family as the people and Sharon says she has come to tolerate the collateral damage inflicted on her garden by her two dogs Gatsby and Carling. "For years I wanted my garden to look picture-postcard perfect but I've softened a bit over the





years,” she says. Instead of clipping a wayward branch or pulling up a seedling that’s growing where the wind planted it, now she’s more likely to let things be.

The garden’s greatest assets have turned out to be its greatest challenges, too. “This very rich, clay soil is as hard as concrete in winter, and in summer, it’s like Plasticine, making it backbreaking work to dig,” she explains. Another important lesson has been to plant the banks of the stream carefully to avoid the loss of precious topsoil in the rainy season – an understanding that came over many years. “In the end, I’ve learnt that you can read all the books you like, but nothing replaces gut feel and experience,” she says. “Go by what does well, what’s happy and what isn’t. Read the signs, read the weather and read the climate.” **GH**

**SOURCE** The Goss House [thegosshouse.com](http://thegosshouse.com)

**THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** ● An obelisk cosies up to an attractive brunfelsia (yesterday-today-and-tomorrow) which has a glorious scent. ● The pond on the right was created from a marshy area and attracts a variety of wildlife including birds, ducks, geese and a pair of black swans. ● Dahlias come up every year in late summer. ● One of the pair of black swans that lives in the pond.



# THE *perfect* SETTING

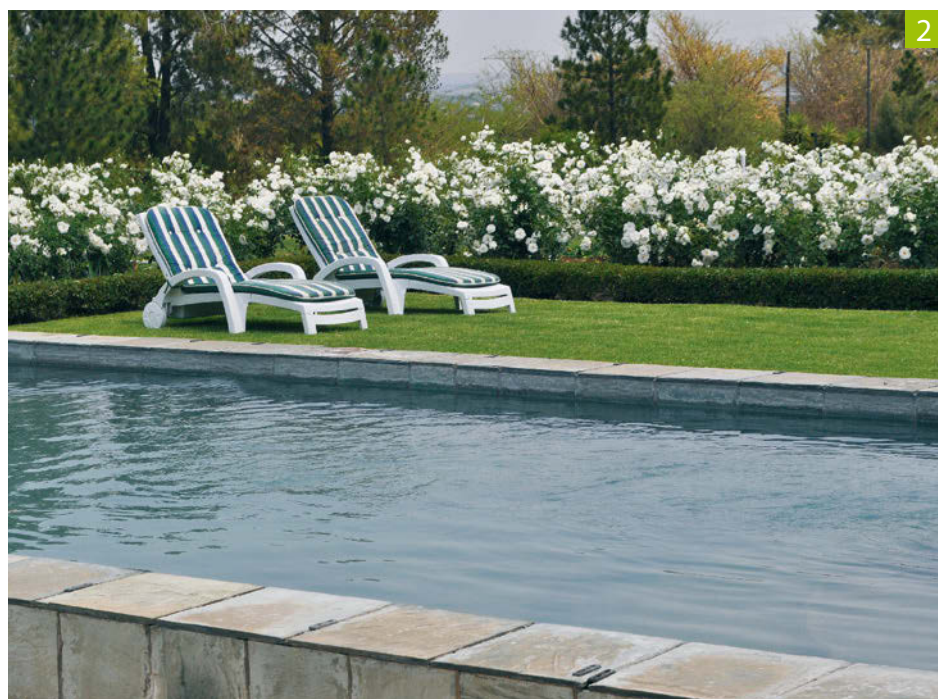
Enhance the look of your pool by surrounding it with the right plants and hard landscaping. Here are some beautiful ways to make your pool the star of your garden

## 1 ON THE EDGE

To complement their terraced garden in Pietermaritzburg, Colin and Monika van Heerden chose an infinity design. Water flows over the edge into a hidden pool on the lower terrace. Bold clipped viburnum hedges demarcate the edge of the pool terrace while large wicker baskets on the opposite side hold bamboo palms. The surrounds are kept deliberately uncluttered to emphasise the sleek design.

## 2 FORMAL DRESS

In a formal garden, a geometric-shaped pool with simple landscaping and limited colours looks best. Here a charcoal pool, finished with stone tiles, is surrounded by a low clipped box hedge and 'Iceberg' roses.





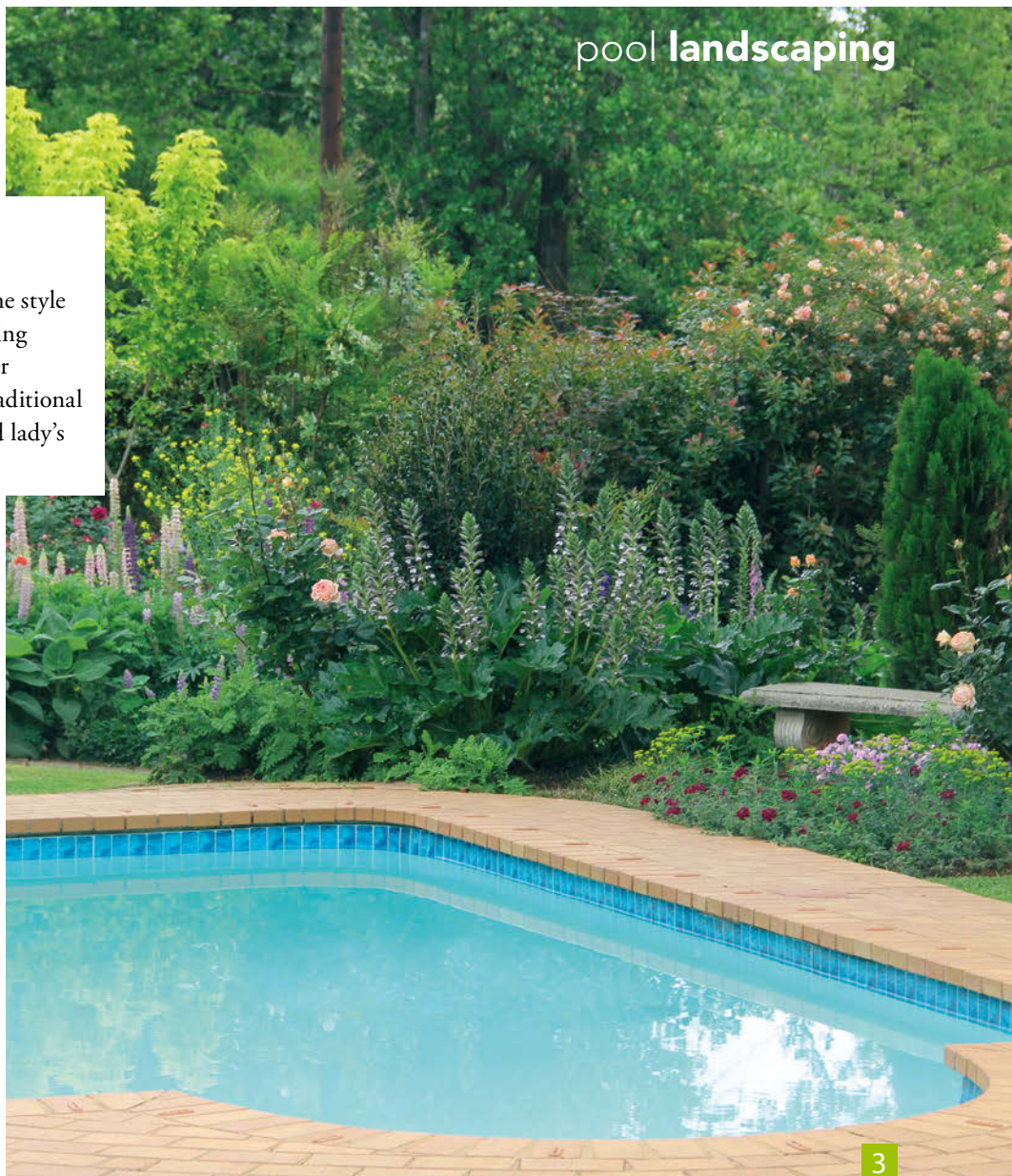
### 3 A CERTAIN STYLE

Poolside plantings should conform to the style of the house and the existing garden. Carrying through the planting theme of the rest of her garden, Cathy Knox of Underberg used a traditional combination of roses, acanthus, verberna and lady's mantle to surround the splash pool.



### 4 ROSY OUTLOOK

While it's often thought that roses and pools don't mix, landscaper Karen Gardelli of Creative Containers disagrees. She loves using colourful landscape roses as they flower so prolifically. For this poolside planting she chose 'My Granny', 'Deloitte & Touche' and 'Granny Dearest' and hid the bare stems from the view of swimmers with yellow and blue violas. ▷



#### POOLSIDE PLANTINGS

- For colourful, water-wise options try foliage plants like red and pink pennisetum, cordyline hybrids and canna hybrids with striped leaves.
- Dymondia, a flat grey-green groundcover with yellow flowers and lime green creeping Jenny make good groundcovers around pools.
- If you definitely want roses then choose colourscape roses or 'Iceberg', 'Burgundy Iceberg' and 'Simplicity', as they perform well throughout spring, summer and autumn.
- Multistemmed bamboo palms are ideal for creating a subtropical look.
- If you want a woodland feel but don't want trees, then Australian tree ferns are the answer.
- Indigenous barleria makes a good low-flowering hedge.
- If you want to screen off a pool, try plumbago for medium to high hedges and viburnum for a robust high clipped hedge.
- For a prairie look around your pool, plant grasses and grass-like plants like liriop, carex, mondo, sisyrinchium and indigenous restio species.
- It's best to plant tall shrubs rather than trees around your pool as their leaves won't fall in the pool and their roots won't damage the surrounds. Try the new protea and pincushion hybrids bred to grow anywhere in the country. Add plenty of acid compost to the soil, and never disturb the roots.





5

## 5 A SUBTLE FRAME

“Why do you need a paved racetrack around your pool?” asks well-known author, horticulturist and landscape designer Keith Kirsten. “And do you have to access it from all four sides?” His solution is to minimise the paving and bring the garden closer to integrate the two. Here the pool is bordered with weathered railway sleepers interplanted with tough indigenous plants like dymondia, vygies, miniature agapanthus, gazania, tulbaghia, chinchinchees and crassula. The planting is low so that it doesn’t obscure the splendid view.

## 6 WILD AND WONDERFUL

To complement the trendy charcoal colour of Greg Labuschagne’s Johannesburg pool, Rose Vermeulen of Indigo Landscapes used an evergreen selection of tough indigenous perennials like wild irises, agapanthus and plumbago to create a lush, low-maintenance surround and give privacy from the neighbouring property. A raised planter box finished with stone cladding adds height on one side. **GN**



6

**SOURCES** Creative Containers 082 745 2891 **Indigo Landscapes** 072 268 4659 or [indigo-landscapes.co.za](http://indigo-landscapes.co.za)  
**Keith Kirsten Horticulture International** [keithkirsten.com](http://keithkirsten.com)



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# It's show TIME

The Gardening World Cup was started five years ago in Japan to showcase the work of the world's top landscapers and designers

**T**he Japanese love of gardening is embedded in their culture and this show was started in 2010 to bring the best of the different design styles from around the world to the public of Japan. The show is judged by the RHS judges and is now one of the most sought-after international shows to exhibit at. SA's own Rebel Gardener, Leon Kluge (pictured above) was invited to create his own garden. Here are some exhibits at the 2014 show in Nagasaki that caught his eye.



## ▲ IN HARMONY

These days choosing the correct plants for a situation and the ability to combine plants in striking ways is just as important as hard landscaping. Accomplished in both, UK designer Paul-Hervey Brookes's perennial masterpiece stopped people in their tracks. The plants he chose for this contemporary take on an English garden included *Sedum spectabile*, *Miscanthus 'Zebrinus'*, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Salvia 'Black and Blue'* and *Rudbeckia 'Yellow Coneflower'*.





## BETWEEN THE LINES

The focal point of Canada's show garden, designed by Robert Boltman and Alex Bartlett, was a water feature made out of fine stainless steel mesh framed by a barn-like structure. Water flowed down the mesh, underneath the deck and eventually cascaded over the rocks into a pond.

## ▼ BUTTERFLY HEAVEN

I represented Africa with an exhibit called 'Through the eyes of a child'. The main element was a column of autumn leaves being picked up by the wind and slowly turning into thousands of white butterflies encircling a driftwood tree. The meadow plants which included *Panicum* 'Hot Chocolate', *Rudbeckia* 'Becky Yellow', *Salvia leucantha* 'Santa Barbara' and *Panicum variegata* were chosen specifically to attract as many living butterflies to the garden as possible – and they came in droves – and dance in the slightest breeze.



## ◀ FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

Gold award-winning Chelsea designer Kazuyuki Ishihara specialises in creating fantasy Japanese moss gardens. His entry included a structure of sticks and moss with water flowing into a shallow pool. ▷





## ◀ NO SMALL FEAT

A silver award winner was this small rooftop garden which demonstrated what could be achieved in six square metres of rooftop. It featured a screen of abstract lines with interesting framed views to enhance borrowed scenery.



## RICH ENCOUNTER

Morocco was represented by Eric Ossart who won a silver award for his effort. He created a dry Mediterranean garden with classic choices such as orange trees, date palms, cosmos and pomegranates. Although simple, the garden showed a successful combination of ornamental and edible plants. **GH**



## ▲ IN THE FRAME

Japanese designer Kazuho Inohana is meticulous when it comes to detail. This arch at the entrance to his garden was made from a solid piece of thick bamboo by creating small slits in the bamboo and slowly bending it.

**SOURCE** Gardening World Cup  
gardeningworldcup.com



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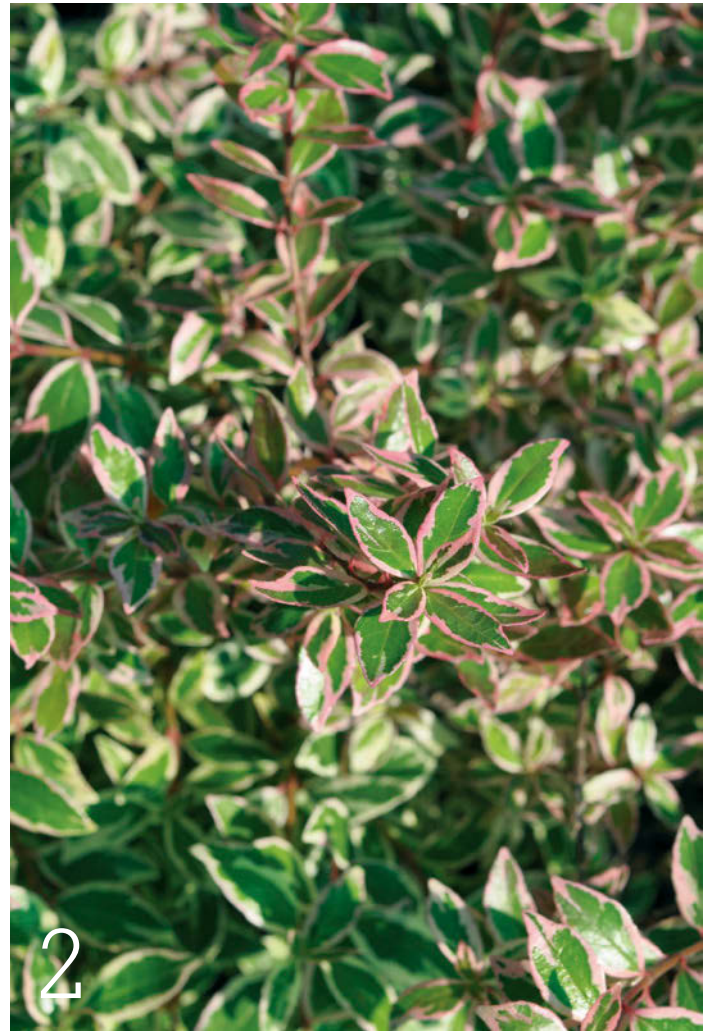


# *The lighter side* **OF GREEN**

Use green and white variegated plants  
to add interesting texture to beds,  
borders and containers

Tasmanian flax lily, *Dianella tasmanica* 'Variegata' adds a vertical element and anchors a hosta, while the white columbine highlights the cream stripes in the dianella.





“Careful placement, integrating both texture and colour can make variegated plants an essential element of the garden,” is the opinion of Tony Avent, American horticulturist and plantsman. While they’re indispensable in shady areas and for lighting up dark corners, variegated plants have a place in both contemporary gardens and formal landscapes and can even add a tropical feel. They’re also effective in containers, but the secret is to use them judiciously and place them in the right spots.

## WHAT IS VARIEGATION?

White spots, splashes, stripes and even mottled and marbled foliage in green leaves is caused by a lack of green pigment (chlorophyll) in plant cells. Where both the green and the yellow pigment (xanthophyll) are missing, the leaf is white. These plants tend to grow slower and less vigorously than their green-leaved counterparts because the white portions cannot produce food, and for this reason, shouldn’t be pruned too heavily.

Variegation in leaves is often the result of a natural mutation or virus. However many plants are now bred specifically for variegations.

**TIP:** To maintain variegated foliage, immediately remove any leaves that revert back to solid green.

## CHOOSING SUITABLE PLANTS

- Select plants with foliage that looks great most of the year.
- Avoid buying too many variegated plants. A melange can confuse the eye making focusing difficult.

## 6 ATTRACTIVE FOLIAGE PLANTS

**1 PLECTRANTHUS NEOCHILUS ‘TRICOLOUR’ (VARIEGATED LOBSTER FLOWER)** This indigenous groundcover has blue flowers. Not as prolific as its plain green parent, it’s easier to control.

**Growing tips:** Equally at home in sun or semi-shade, it benefits from extra feeding.

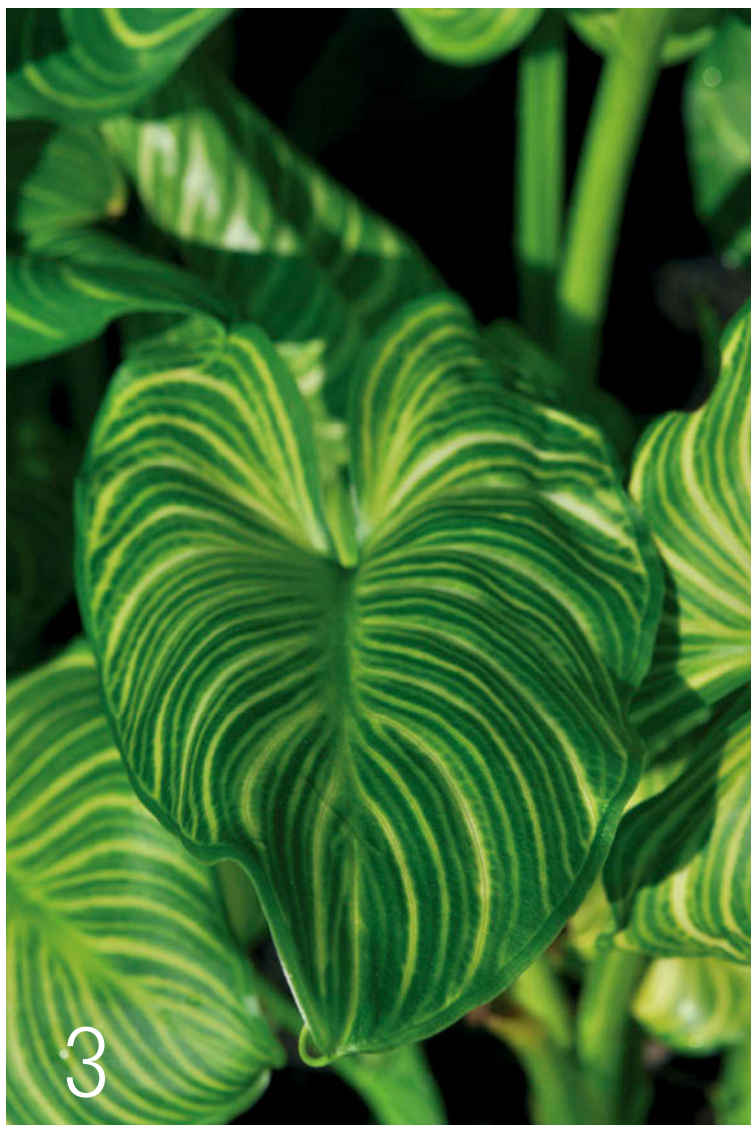
**Good to know:** Height: 25–50cm. Half-hardy.

**2 ABELIA X GRANDIFLORA** Although cherished for their graceful shape and fragrant flowers, abelias’ major attraction is their glossy foliage. A new variegated form, ‘Confetti’ (pictured) is a delight with dainty green leaves edged with white and pink-tinged new growth.

**Growing tips:** Plant it in full sun or semi-shade. Rejuvenate it annually by pruning out old stems from the base.

**Good to know:** Height: 1–1,5m. Hardy. ▷





3

### 3 ZANTEDESCHIA AETHIOPICA 'AFRICAN GOLD'

It's not just the stunning stripes on the arrow-shaped leaves, their size also makes this variegated form of calla lily such a good buy. Their white flowers are a bonus. Look out for spotted-leaved arums and *Arum italicum*.

**Growing tips:** Plant it in full sun or semi-shade.

**Good to know:** Height: 60–90cm. It may die back in cold regions.

### 4 SENECIO TAMOIDES VAR. (VARIEGATED CANARY CREEPER)

The variegated form of our indigenous canary creeper is less vigorous, and apart from being a useful twining climber or scrambler, it makes a stunning groundcover.

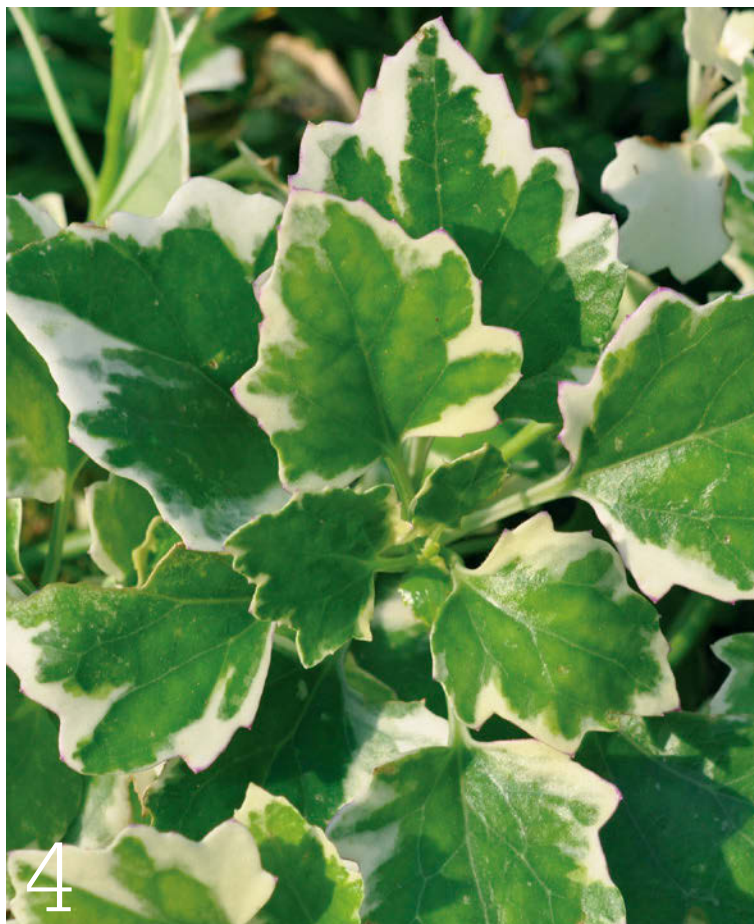
**Growing tips:** Plant it in sun or semi-shade. Feed it regularly, water it during dry periods and trim it to keep it compact.

**Good to know:** Half-hardy, it needs frost protection.

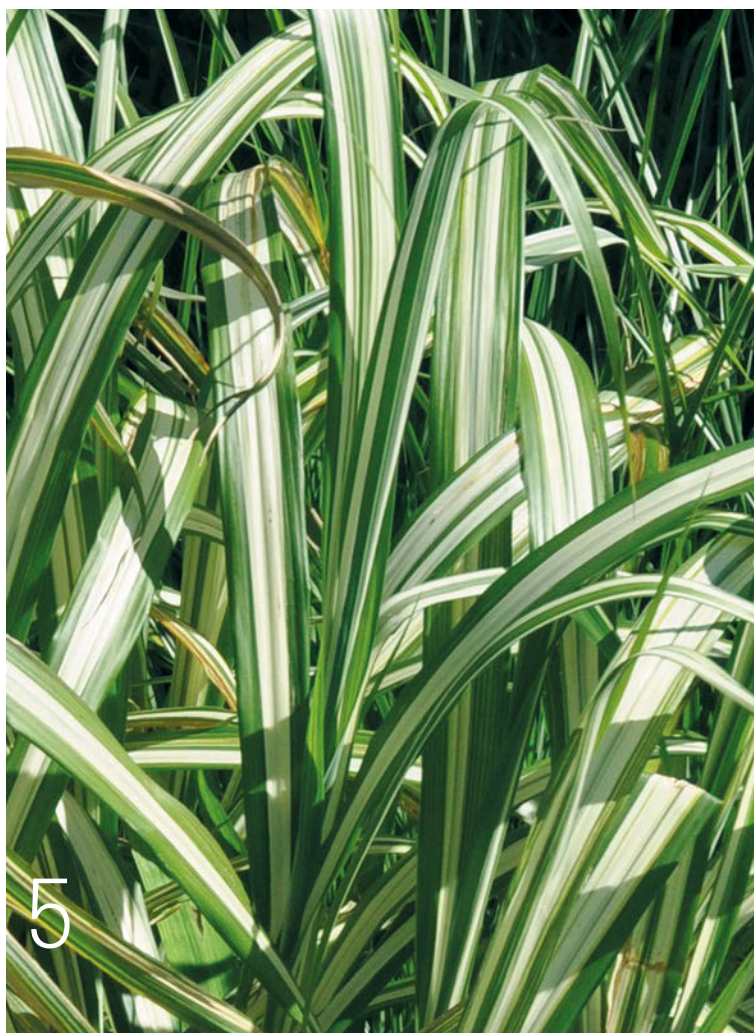
**5 MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'CABARET'** Use this tall, summer-growing grass with its wide, striped green and white leaves as an accent plant. Attractive plumes of flowers and seedheads in autumn are an added attraction.

**Growing tips:** It prefers full sun and moist soil.

**Good to know:** Height: 120–180cm. Frost tolerant; the leaves die back in winter.



4



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**6 LAMIUM SPP.** New selections of this delightful semi-shade-loving groundcover, which is also grown for its flowers, are frequently released and all are equally rewarding. **Growing tips:** Rooted pieces can be lifted and planted elsewhere. **Good to know:** Height: 10–15cm. Frost hardy, it may get a bit tatty in winter.

## LANDSCAPING WITH VARIEGATED PLANTS

**For contrast:** The subtle nature of their leaves lifts dull, dark foliated backgrounds especially in mass plantings. As the lighter colours appear to come forward, they add depth to planting schemes and a green backbone to the garden. Although green leaves with yellow or white markings lighten the garden, yellow markings are brighter, while white has a more cooling effect.

**Repetition and movement:** A succession of variegated plants will draw the eye through the garden, providing flow and movement. Make sure there's some uniformity and use them with discretion with plain green foliage predominating. Place finely marked foliage in the foreground so the detail is appreciated. Place foliage with more distinct patterning further away as the markings will blur with distance.

**As focal points:** Striking individual plants can be used to draw the attention in informal shrubberies and borders, at the end of a path or as a centre point in a container. Clipped balls, spheres and obelisks of plants like variegated myrtle and privet are a very effective means in formal gardens of demarcating steps or a path or to frame a view, especially when used in pairs.

**Flowers or foliage:** Most variegated plants are grown for their foliage rather than their flowers, and although the flowers are incidental, they work best when they complement the whole picture. They're a great way to add colour and interest when there are few flowers. Try the new variegated *Agapanthus* 'Tinkerbell' and wild garlic.

● **For a harmonious combination:** or to draw attention to the variegations, team them up with plants that have white flowers.



## GOOD COMPANIONS

- Use a variety of leaf forms, textures and sizes to add interest to plantings and containers. Pair a single variegated plant with other plain-green foliage plants or mix two or more variegated plants.
- The striped green and white spears of dianella look stunning paired with *Sutera cordata* and the big, bold shiny leaves of angelica.
- In the shade, underplant variegated hydrangeas with one of the silvery lamium groundcovers, and for a contrasting leaf shape, add bold clumps of variegated ophiopogon with their narrow strappy leaves.
- In a tropical garden, surround variegated *Pilea cadierei*, (aluminum plant) with white begonias and the holly fern or the indigenous *Chlorophytum comosum* 'Variegatum', hen-and-chickens and use *Fatsyhedera lizei*, the tree ivy, as a backdrop.
- A good indigenous combination is *Plectranthus madagascariensis* var. and *Sutera cordata* with *Haemanthus albiflos* which has broad strap-like leaves and white flowers
- On a sunny patio, pair the zebra-striped haworthia (*H. fasciata*) with a variegated spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*) surrounded by the neat star-shaped succulent leaves of *Sedum lineare* var. 'Sea Urchin' or *Dymondia margaretae*.
- In a sunny bed, use the fine misty *Carex* 'Silver Mist' as a counterpoint for a variegated myrtle and the variegated form of *Coprosma kirkii* or *Carissa macrocarpa* 'Variegata'. **GEH**



# GARDEN notes

Tick off your chores on our to-do list and give your garden a lift with a new plant

## 10 must dos this month

Contributing garden editor Marianne Alexander's handy checklist of essential chores to do in January



Zinnias

### 1 Keep annuals and perennials fed and watered.

Use a high-potassium fertiliser like 3:1:5 or 2:3:4 to maintain growth and promote flowering. Deadhead regularly as plants allowed to produce seed put all their energy into this and stop flowering.

**2 Fill in gaps with heat-tolerant annuals** that will flower into autumn. Sow seed of cosmos, tiny zinnias, celosia and marigolds directly into your beds. Look out for Marigold 'Eskimo' seeds from Starke Ayres and enjoy the white double flowers that'll appear in 8–12 weeks. Trim leggy

petunias, verbenas, annual salvias and nicotianas; mulch with compost and foliar feed with Kelpak.

**3 Tidy up and trim** plants damaged by hail; remember hailstones are full of nitrogen and give the garden a great boost.

**4 For a good autumn display**, feed late summer-flowering shrubs like barleria, poinsettias, *Salvia leucantha*, purple bells (*Dyschoriste thunbergiiflora*) and plectranthus with 3:1:5 or 2:3:4; water and mulch with compost.

**5 Give roses a light midsummer trim.** To boost new growth, feed with Vigorosa; sprinkle evenly around the base of each plant. Repeat applications of fungicides like Chronos fortnightly, so new leaves are covered as they develop. A living mulch of groundcover under your roses will help keep red spider mite, which love hot dry conditions, at bay.

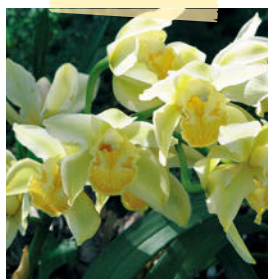
**6 Thin out excess water plants** in ponds and remove decaying matter. Remove alien invaders particularly those that float on top of the water like Kariba weed, water hyacinth and water lettuce. Dispose of them responsibly.

**7 Feed amaryllis (hippeastrum).** Tug out old flower stems of Inca lilies then feed plants; cut the flowerheads off liliiums leaving as many leaves as possible as these are needed to produce food. Deadhead agapanthus; look for new, later flowering varieties.

**8 Prune trees** to let in light by cutting off lower branches to lift the canopy; when done in summer, regrowth isn't as vigorous.

**9 Fuchsias** which have stopped flowering can be trimmed back and fed with 3:1:5 or an organic equivalent; this will initiate another flush of flowers.

**10 Cymbidium orchids** need a low-nitrogen, high-potash food as a soil drench, or foliar feed with Starke Ayres Flowering Orchid, to stimulate the formation of flower spikes. Flush out accumulated nutrients monthly with clean water.

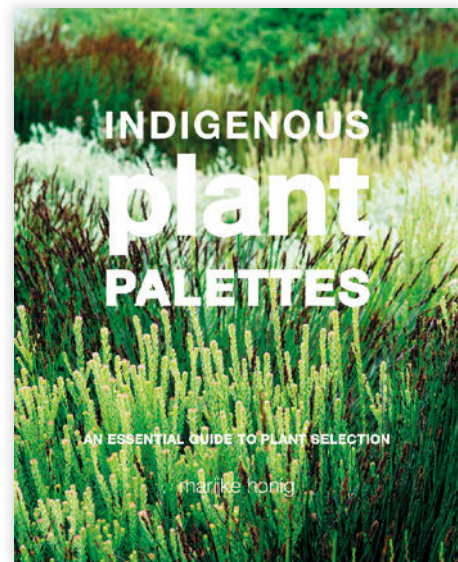


Cymbidium



## Create a magical atmosphere with lanterns

1. Ceramic duck egg blue lantern, R215, Spree, [spree.co.za](http://spree.co.za)
2. Aristo's Outdoor Range Dubai lantern, R1 399, Gardens & Roses, [gnrsa.co.za](http://gnrsa.co.za)
3. Large punched metal lantern, R399,99, Mr Price Home, [mrphome.com](http://mrphome.com)



## Read on

*Indigenous Plant Palettes: An essential guide to plant selection* (Quivertree) by Marijke Honig is a comprehensive, well-illustrated gardening guide. After covering practical issues, the author lists 24 plant palettes which include topics like fragrance, screening, birds and colour and form. It's a great inspiration if you're planning a garden.

TEXT: MARIANNE ALEXANDER, DIANE PEACOCK AND LIFE IS A GARDEN  
SHOPPING PRODUCTS: MONICA WITSHENLA PHOTOGRAPHS: MARIANNE ALEXANDER, PETER WHITFIELD  
AND SUPPLIED PRODUCTS AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 2.



## This weekend



Check patchy lawns for lawn caterpillars. Put a damp towel or newspaper on the grass at night. If you find these grey green caterpillars underneath the next morning ask your nurseryman for an environmentally friendly control such as one containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

**TIP:** Flocks of starlings feeding on the grass are a good indication of an invasion.



1



2



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## 3 RELIABLE SUMMER BLOOMERS

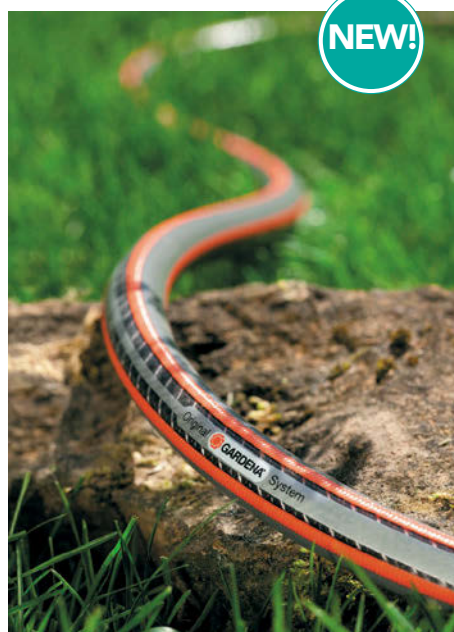
**1 Klipvygie (*Delosperma lydenburgense*)** This relatively drought- and frost-tolerant groundcover with fleshy leaves likes a little shade. From the summer-rainfall area, it flowers from spring through summer.

**2 Calliandra (*Calliandra surinamensis*)** Pink powder puff plants are perfect for hot gardens especially in the subtropics; trim after flowering to maintain their bushy shape.

**3 Butterfly bush *Buddleia* 'Buzz'** This new series will bring butterflies to the garden in summer; if these dwarf shrubs (1–1,5m high) grow too fast, cut them back hard after flowering.

## WHAT A HOSE

The new Gardena System garden hoses have a black inner layer, which discourages algae growth. A threaded spiral makes them more flexible, eliminating kinking and twisting. They're available from leading retailers and nurseries nationwide. For more information, visit [gardena.co.za](http://gardena.co.za)



## The veggie garden

**1 Harvest baby potatoes;** they are ready for lifting once the plant has flowered.

**2 Make a final sowing of herbs** like dill, rocket, cress and coriander as they're quick to mature.

**3 Rocket** (pictured above) self-seeds easily so allow a few plants to go to seed for an ongoing supply of plants.

**4 Plant green peppers, tomatoes and aubergines** in the subtropics.

**5 In frost regions,** make a last sowing of baby marrow or courgettes and beans.

**6 Pick zucchini** (baby marrows) and patty pans while small; left too long they grow rapidly and are rather tasteless; plants also stop producing flowers. ➤



## For the birds

Eco-Matched Veld Seed from Mayfords are indigenous grass mixes that include grasses like millet and plants like sunflowers that produce edible seeds for birds. As their names suggest, Biosome Bushveld Grass Mixture and Grassveld Grass Mixture have carefully selected combinations for specific regions.

## BEST OF THE BLOGS

Open Gardens Constantia's blog has great pictures and interesting snippets about a wide variety of plants. Visit [opengardensconstantia.wordpress.com](http://opengardensconstantia.wordpress.com)



## TAKE A SEAT

From Coricraft's new collection of rattan furniture, the Gao high-back chair in Summer Tan, R2 995, is perfect for covered patios and verandas.

Visit [coricraft.co.za](http://coricraft.co.za)



### Duck out

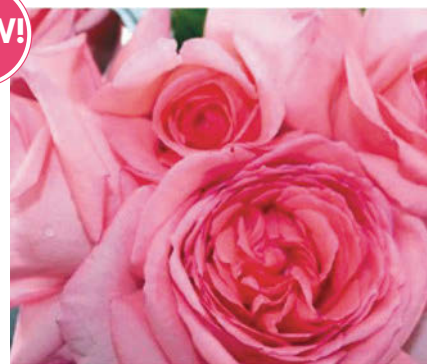
We love these clay duck pot feet, R30 each, from Greenhouse Nursery at Montebello in Cape Town. Call 021 689 9598.

## New to you

NEW!

**1** 'Fragonard' is an early flowering Antico Moderno. The deep-cupped pink flowers produce a heavenly perfume. The shoulder-high plant has shiny, dark green leaves and is disease resistant.

**2** 'Naughty Nude' is a compact Fairy Tale rose bush, it grows between hip and chest height and covers itself with exquisitely shaped, peach and cream blooms. It's ideal for bordering hedges, in beds and groups. Call Ludwig's Roses on 012 544 0144 or visit [ludwigsroses.co.za](http://ludwigsroses.co.za)



## GRASS RULES

Mow lawns that were left uncut over Christmas in stages, lowering the height of the mower each time. Boost with 2:3:4 or 3:1:5 fertiliser. Don't water unnecessarily; but if your grass turns a blue-green colour and doesn't spring back immediately after being walked upon, it needs water.

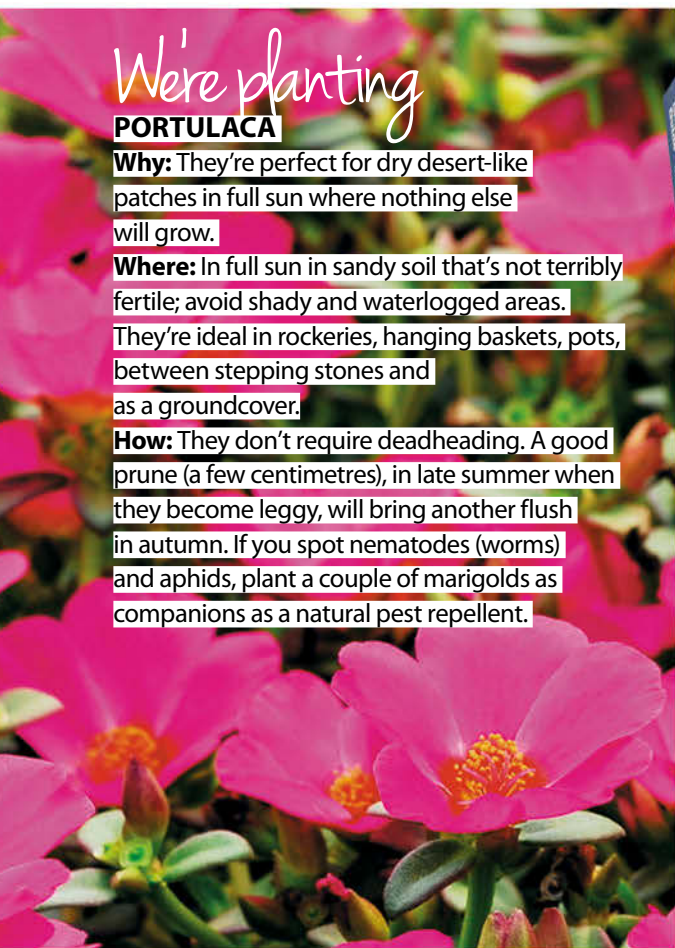
## We're planting

### PORTULACA

**Why:** They're perfect for dry desert-like patches in full sun where nothing else will grow.

**Where:** In full sun in sandy soil that's not terribly fertile; avoid shady and waterlogged areas. They're ideal in rockeries, hanging baskets, pots, between stepping stones and as a groundcover.

**How:** They don't require deadheading. A good prune (a few centimetres), in late summer when they become leggy, will bring another flush in autumn. If you spot nematodes (worms) and aphids, plant a couple of marigolds as companions as a natural pest repellent.



### Insider's Guide How and Where to Photograph Birds in Southern Africa



WIN!

## THE EARLY BIRD

Capturing the moment on camera takes bird watching to a whole new level. In this handy little book, *Insider's Guide: How and Where to Photograph Birds in Southern Africa* (Jacana Media), award-winning bird photographer, Isak Pretorius tells you exactly how to get it right.

**WIN!** We're giving away two copies of this book, worth R250 each. To enter, **SMS PHOTO**, your name, city and e-mail address to 48406. An SMS costs R1,50. Errors will be billed and free SMSes do not apply. For Ts&Cs, see page 127.

## What's on?

### 24 – 25 JANUARY Beautiful gardens of Benoni

Rotary Anns of the Rotary Club of Benoni van Ryn in Benoni will open seven (possibly eight) gorgeous gardens. Entrance: R30 for both days. Call Judy Bath on 082 255 6966 or 011 849 5369.

### 24 – 25 JANUARY Gardens of the Golden City

Dalene Laubser's lovely garden, at 206 Wilson Street, Fairland, Jo'burg, where the garden extends beyond the Fairland spruit is open from 10h00 – 17h00. Entrance: R20, children under 12 free. Call Peggy on 011 678 2328 or 072 193 4616 or visit [gardensofthegoldencity.co.za](http://gardensofthegoldencity.co.za)



1

# WHAT'S new in the *nurseries*

Along with resolutions and the general hullabaloo at this time of year, comes a host of plants that are sure to make any gardener's heart sing

## 1 PETUNIA 'INDIAN SUMMER'

The cascading showers of glorious apricot and peach flowers that \*\*'Indian Summer' produces are head turners. The effect that these blooms create is nothing short of 'wow', regardless whether they're planted in hanging baskets, pots, beds or borders. 'Indian Summer' has been bred to flower earlier and longer from late spring right through the summer months into autumn.



## 2 ROSA COURTYARD 'MAMMA MIA'

This large (up to 3m) rambling rose produces a profusion of soft-pink flowers. What differentiates the \*\*Courtyard Collection from more traditional climbers is the way they set flowers all the way from the bottom of the plant, creating flowering columns with no bare stems. The roses climb with the aid of their thorns and by training. The large, double blooms emit a wild rose scent.



## 3 COREOPSIS 'PRAIRIE AMBER'

This impressive new hybrid from TuberFlora is smothered in stunning scarlet flowers from early summer right through to autumn. It also comes in 'Gold' and 'White'; use it for massed planting, as a border edge and in containers. A vigorous grower, it's tolerant of pests and drought, thriving in sandy and rocky soils. This is a relatively low-maintenance perennial, best tidied up in early spring before it starts growing actively. It's also good for attracting butterflies. Plant it in well-drained soil in a sunny position. Under ideal conditions it can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. ▷





4

## 4 LOBULARIA 'LAVENDER STREAM'

If you like alyssum, but are disappointed when it fades in hot weather, then this hybrid is the answer. This ball-shaped plant is self-cleaning (the flowers drop off naturally) and temperature tolerant. Throughout summer it produces an abundance of dainty flower clusters with a wonderfully sweet, honey-like fragrance. \*'Lavender Stream' is an easy-to-grow plant that makes a perfect filler for mixed containers, hanging baskets and window boxes as well as along the edges of pathways and beds. Butterflies also love it.

## 5 LIRIOPE 'PURE BLONDE'

If you like unique plants then \*\*'Pure Blonde' is definitely for you. Its grass-like foliage stays blonde for up to three months then slowly turns back to green. It can take full sun to heavy shade, sandy or clay soil and tolerates frost, drought and humidity, but doesn't like wind. If you cut it back to the ground in July, it will reshoot pure blonde in August to September depending on where you live. It works well as a groundcover, in patio containers, gravel gardens or at the front of borders. Small spikes of lilac flowers add further interest in autumn. Try growing it next to black mondo grass.



5



6

## 6 AGAPANTHUS 'TWISTER'

This bicoloured agapanthus, a striking new hybrid, has recently been released by local plant breeder, De Wet Plant Breeders. The contrast of vibrant blue and pure white flowers makes its umbels unique. Combine this with an abundance of flowers through the early summer months and you're in for a remarkable show. This medium-sized agapanthus is a fast grower, soon forming a thick clump when planted in rich soil in full sun. It's suited to both small and large gardens, holding its own whether planted as a focal specimen or in a group. 'Twister' is available at most large garden centres.



7

## 7 CORDYLINA 'CAN CAN'

This striking, multistemmed cordyline from Malanseuns has colourful, weeping, variegated foliage and ever-changing colour which ensures year-round interest. Plant it in full sun or semi-shade, in containers on the patio or as a focal plant in the garden. This tough plant requires very little maintenance once established and is cold and frost hardy. The mature plant size can vary depending on growing conditions but is generally about 1,5m x 2m.

\*FROM TUBERFLORA \*\*FROM MALANSEUNS





8

## 8 SALVIA SALLYFUN 'BLUE EMOTION'

\*'Blue Emotion' features beautiful spikes of blue flowers with violet overtones rising above scented foliage from early summer to mid-autumn. Plant it in full sun and en masse for the best effect. This compact plant is not as thirsty as most other salvias, so is ideal for a water-wise garden. It has the added advantages of making a good cut flower and providing nectar for butterflies.



9

## 9 HIBISCUS ROSA-SINENSIS GRANDIFLORA 'APOLLO VAR APOLLO'

This new-generation hibiscus with unique genetics was bred by a Danish company. Named after the god of Beauty, \*\*Hibiscus 'Apollo' lives up to its namesake with its big, beautiful flowers. Although it can be grown in the garden, it's best as a patio plant as its mature size is 80cm x 1,5m. Appearing from spring to autumn, the blooms are borne on the outer edges of the shrub. Plant in full sun.



10

## 10 GAILLARDIA 'GALYA' SERIES

This award-winning series from TuberFlora caused quite a stir when it was unveiled at a prestigious Dutch plant show and is set to do just that here in SA. While the range features a wide variety of colours, the masses of blooms often clinch it for many gardeners. This series boasts single, double and trumpet shapes. Couple this with its branching habit and versatile uses in the garden, on patios and in mixed containers and you'll understand why it scooped up so many awards. **GH**

**SOURCES** De Wet Plant Breeders [dewetenviro.co.za](http://dewetenviro.co.za) Malanseuns [malanseuns.co.za](http://malanseuns.co.za)  
TuberFlora [tuberflora.co.za](http://tuberflora.co.za)



steps and stairs

# Step on UP

Changes in level can turn an ordinary garden into something special – particularly when steps are part of the package. Here are five great, do-able ideas to inspire you

## 1 Natural flow

In Mary Ross's garden, two simple balls set on plinths at the bottom of the steps leading up to the main garden create a visual link with the adjacent circular cement-edged pond and act as 'full stops' at the bottom of the slope. The steps have low risers and wide treads to make them more welcoming and easier to climb. The rough plastering with its clean whitewash finish adds a fresh cool look. Planting on either side follows the white theme of the adjacent garden. Standard 'Iceberg' roses echo the white of the balls while the groundcover *Erigeron karvinskiana* with its dainty white daisy flowers embellishes the edges.



2

## 2 All rise

Flights of steps offer a wonderful opportunity to show off special plants. For more impact, limit your choice to one type of plant and pot them in similar containers. In this Franschoek garden, the earthy tones of the terracotta pots and the vivid pelargoniums enhance the Mediterranean feel.

## 3 Made to measure

A clever way to bring the garden nearer the house or even onto your patio is to leave gaps at the base of each riser. In this garden the tiles were specifically laid to make the tread a little wider and the gaps filled with good soil and compost before planting. This is ideal in small gardens and where space is limited. You can plant an independent mini garden in the spaces and change the display to suit your colour scheme or the season. In this sunny spring display, colours were limited to blue, white and shades of purple and lilac using pansies, lobelia, white *Chrysanthemum paludosum* and a few cream gazanias.



3





#### 4 All-round favourite

It's not just the way these steps at The Cellars-Hohenort hotel taper toward the path above that entices one to go up them, but the clever way the bricks were laid to direct your vision upwards. This is reinforced by the neatly clipped miniature myrtle hedge on either side of the path. The dainty groundcover *Erigeron karvinskiana* at the base of each riser emphasises the semi-circular structure and softens the brickwork. It's clipped to tie in with the hedge but could be allowed to spill over for a more relaxed look.

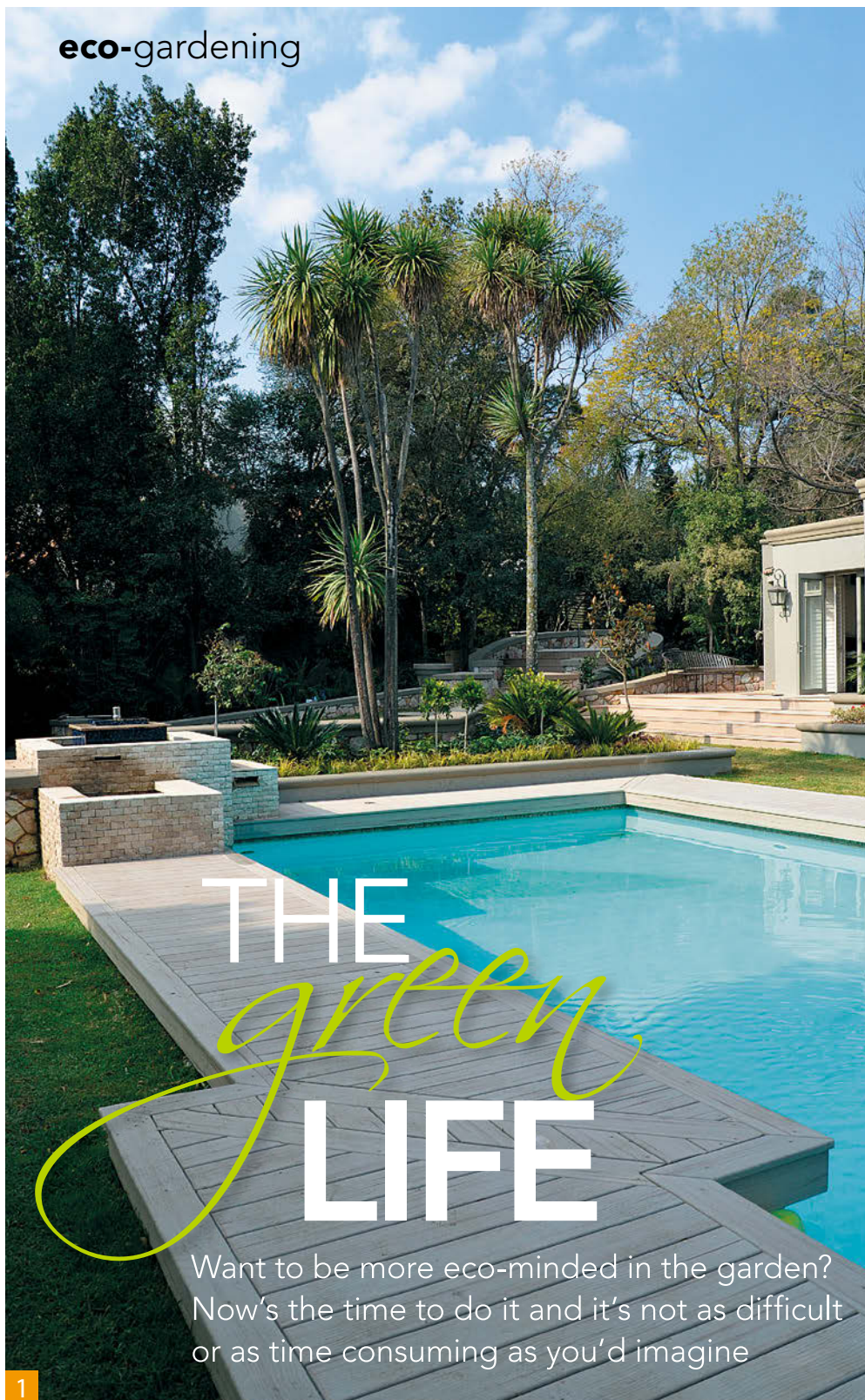
#### 5 Modern classic

In this small, contemporary suburban garden in Newlands, Cape Town, a wide set of steps finished with white cement screed links the pool terrace and garden pavilion designed by architect, Luke Scott. Landscaper John Richardson used shallow bowls from Classic Stone on either side to unobtrusively announce the position of the steps. A low-maintenance gravelled area offsets the textural planting surrounding the lawned area. **GH**



**SOURCES** Classic Stone 021 701 7655 or [info@classicstone.co.za](mailto:info@classicstone.co.za) John Richardson Gardens 083 448 7297, [info@johnrichardson.co.za](mailto:info@johnrichardson.co.za) or [johnrichardson.co.za](http://johnrichardson.co.za) Luke Scott Architects 021 465 6028 or [info@lukescott.co.za](mailto:info@lukescott.co.za) The Cellars-Hohenort 021 794 2149 or [collectionmcgrath.com/cellars](http://collectionmcgrath.com/cellars)





# THE *green* LIFE

Want to be more eco-minded in the garden?  
Now's the time to do it and it's not as difficult  
or as time consuming as you'd imagine

1

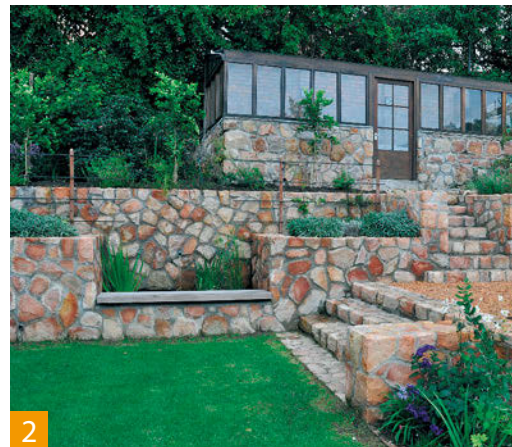
## 1. USE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

● Instead of timber decking, which has a high carbon footprint, try composite plastic decking made from 95% recycled material like Envirodeck (pictured above). Not only is it durable, it's low maintenance, doesn't splinter and needs no sealing. Planks, poles and furniture are also available in composites.

● Increase the water retention of your soil by using coco palm or coir peat made from the discarded husks of coconuts, rather than peat moss, which is a non-renewable resource.

● Plant a grove of bamboo you can harvest when you need stakes.

● Support local industries by using fencing made from latte and garden furniture made from alien vegetation.



2

## 2. SET IN STONE

Dry stone walls are visually appealing and provide natural habitats for plant and animal life. They're low impact and are preferable to structures built with concrete and cement. But if you have to use cement, use Afrisam Eco Building Cement. Its unique combination of Portland cement and mineral components means it has an almost 50% smaller carbon footprint than ordinary cement.



3

## 3. POOLING RESOURCES

Natural or eco-swimming pools provide a perfect habitat for both plant and animal life. But even owners of conventional pools can do their bit and return their backwash water to the pool.

Backwashed water, especially that from saline pools, can harm soil composition resulting in a build-up of salts. Rather than discarding this water, pump it into a holding tank and add a flocculent. The harmful components will sink to the bottom within 24 hours and you can return the clean water to the pool so you don't have to use municipal water to top it up.





#### 4. HARVEST RAINWATER

Positioned to collect water from downpipes, rain tanks made of polyethylene like these JoJo tanks (left), corrugated iron and concrete are the conventional method of harvesting rainwater. But there are other ways to do this. When building paved areas like patios and driveways, design them so water run-off is directed into underground tanks or reservoirs. A new trend is to contour your property with berms and swales (see inset) so the water soaks into the ground rather than running off into stormwater drains.

Use permeable, hard landscaping elements like gravel chips set on Bidim rather than plastic sheeting. Use Sudpave plastic grid pavers from DuraTurf or Terracrete block pavers from Terraforce to terrace slopes and create level areas. Because they have gaps where grass can be planted, they minimise run-off and increase water absorption.



#### 5. TALKING TRASH

Recycling household waste not only improves the soil but has a positive effect on the environment. It's as simple or complex as you want. You can use kitchen scraps to make a compost heap in an unused corner of the garden, to feed a worm bin or Bokashi system or use in a biogas digester to provide heat for cooking. (Read all about Bokashi on the Gardening How Tos on our website [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za).)

By reducing the amount of disposable waste, less transport is needed to take it to landfills, which don't fill as quickly, resulting in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



#### 6. ENDEMIC IS BEST

Planting indigenous sometimes isn't enough. It's best to plant endemic plants that occur naturally in your area.

For example, indigenous proteas, which grow on the misty mountains slopes, will struggle in suburban gardens in Johannesburg without additional watering and succulents from desert areas will rot in cold clay soils in summer-rainfall areas. Work out your garden's specific microclimate and choose suitable plants. ▷





## 7. EDIBLE WEEDS

Veldkos foraging and eating plants often considered weeds, is very popular. Yellow sorrel (7a) gives a sour tang to Malay curries, the succulent leaves of the flat-spreading purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) add a crunch to salads and contain many vitamins while chickweed (*Stellaria media*) (7b) and nettles are delicious in soups and stews.

In addition to their culinary uses, many garden plants and weeds have medicinal uses. Sage can be used to soothe chest ailments and bulbine to heal mouth ulcers. So whether you're out and about or in your back garden, if you can't beat them, eat them.



## 8. WATER-SAVING STRATEGIES

Reducing your water consumption is also good for your pocket. Here are some ideas to help you do it.

- The Gardena Water Smart Flow Meter (pictured below), is available from most nurseries and hardware stores. Attach this battery-operated calculator to the tap or sprinkler-end of your hose and programme it to calculate your daily water consumption. When you know how much water is being used per minute, you'll know how long to leave the hose running.

- "The most economical way to water your garden is with a drip system," says Philip Botha of Cape Waterplant. "If correctly installed, these systems use around a third less water than sprinklers and direct water to the root zones. As they lie on the ground, the water isn't obstructed by leaves and if covered with mulch, there's minimal evaporation."



## 9. WATER WISE

Xeriscaping, or dry landscaping, doesn't mean having a gravelled garden full of cacti. It's about designing a garden to use water in the best possible way. To do this, create water zones like no-water, low-water and medium-to high-water areas and plant accordingly. Choose plants that are adapted to the rainfall in your area.

Cool-climate plants need cool days in early summer when their growth is soft, and plants from the subtropics need humidity in the air, which they won't get in the dry Karoo. In winter-rainfall areas, choose Mediterranean plants that require little water in summer.





## 10. GREAT COMPANIONS

To minimise the need for pesticides, try companion planting. Certain strongly scented plants deter pests while marigolds reduce the incidence of eelworm in the soil as a result of secretions of thiophenes from their roots. Other plants like nasturtiums act as decoys, attracting the cabbage white butterflies, while many attract predatory insects like wasps which in turn lay their eggs on caterpillars; the larvae that hatch destroy the caterpillars.

Some plants, like garlic and tomatoes are known as plant doctors as they help their neighbours resist disease. Lucerne, comfrey and dandelion improve the soil. Legumes secrete nitrogen-fixing bacteria which help enhance soil fertility, while others provide support and shelter from wind and sun.

## 11. LIMITING LAWN

Maintaining a lawn requires a lot of water so replacing some of it with water-wise groundcovers or hard landscaping like gravel (below) can reduce your water consumption. However if you love your lawn, there are several indigenous lawn varieties available that require less water. Opt for LM (Berea), a lush-looking, light-green, seeded warm-season grass that grows in sun and shade and thrives along the coast.

'Princess' and 'Bermuda' are both varieties of *Cynodon dactylon*, as is 'Sea Green', like 'Gulfgreen', a *Cynodon transvaalensis* variety, it has a high cold tolerance and can be grown from plugs.



## 12. GROWING UP

In urban environments, vertical and rooftop gardens are all the rage providing passive cooling and insulation from the heat plus new habitats and corridors for wildlife. These green additions soften buildings and provide space for growing organic vegetables and attractive plants. **GN**

**SOURCES** Afrisam [afrisam.co.za](http://afrisam.co.za) Cape Waterplant

[daretofly@lantic.net](mailto:daretofly@lantic.net) DuraTurf [duraturf.co.za](http://duraturf.co.za) Envirodeck

011 087 6200/1 or [info@envirodeck.co.za](mailto:info@envirodeck.co.za) Gardena [gardena.co.za](http://gardena.co.za)

JoJo Tanks [jojo.co.za](http://jojo.co.za) Terraforce [terraforce.com](http://terraforce.com)





All cats love catnip.



Tansy

# Pet PROJECT

Author and herb fundi, Jane Griffiths suggests essential herbs to grow and use for the four-legged members of the family

**H**ow often have you seen your dog or cat grazing on grass to settle their stomachs? Animals instinctively turn to plants when they need to heal themselves. Try growing a few of these herbs for a home-grown animal medicine chest.

## TANSY

Tansy has bright yellow button flowers and is an excellent insect repellent.

**GROWING TIPS:** It grows in most

soils and likes full sun. It doesn't like wet feet and needs well-drained soil. It grows into a bushy, straggly plant by sending out vigorous rhizomes and can be invasive. Keep it in check by cutting it back and pulling out the new growth around the edges of the plant.

**GOOD TO KNOW:** In cold areas it will die back during winter, but will shoot up in spring.

**USES:** Its pungent leaves deter many insects. It's excellent added to flea powder

(see overleaf) and fly spray (see overleaf). Add shredded leaves to hens' bedding to repel mites.

## TURMERIC

Add this beautiful herb to your garden. It has exotically beautiful flowers and long, strappy green leaves.

**GROWING TIPS:** It's an easy herb to grow as long as it's given fertile soil and plenty of regular water throughout summer. Bury a fresh root with one end

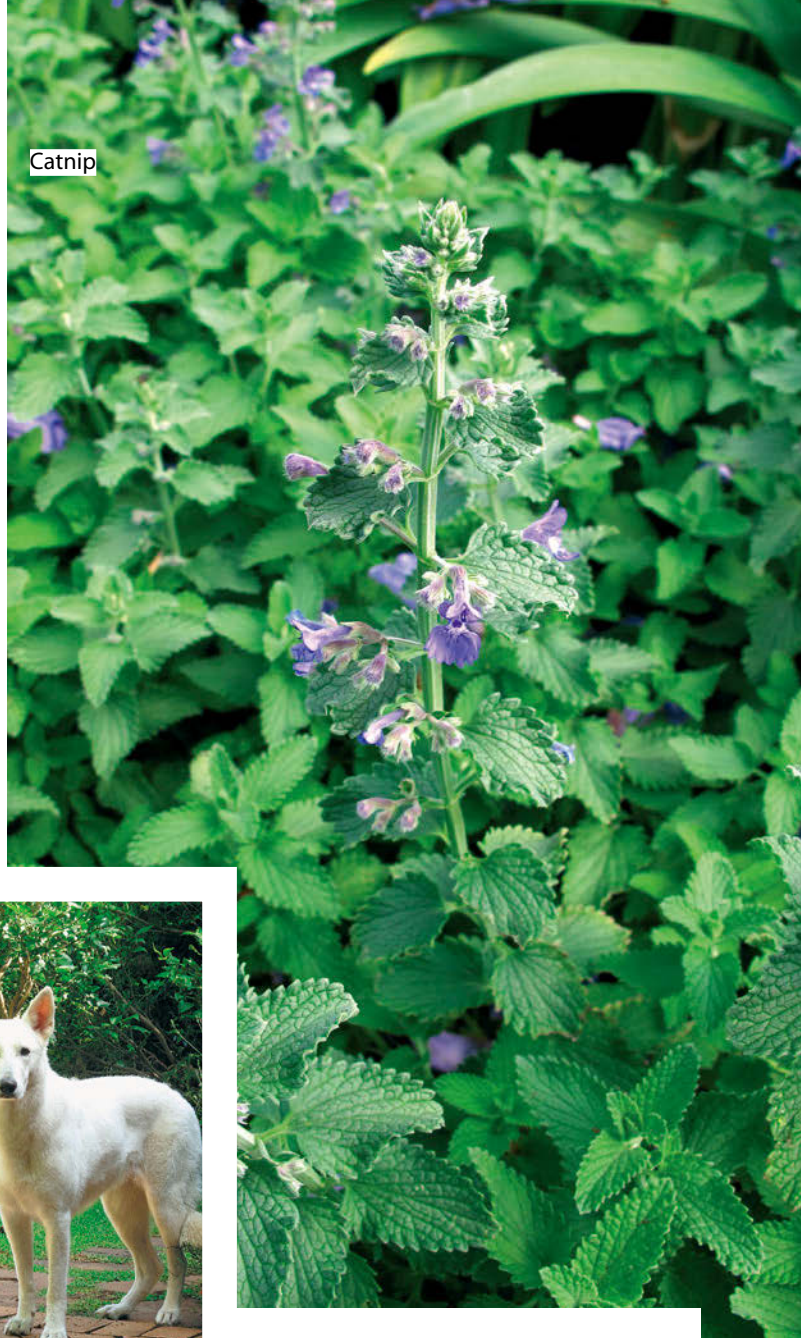


Turmeric





African wormwood



Catnip



just below the surface and the other about 10cm deep. Water it well until the first shoots appear. It's a tropical plant that likes warmth and humidity and will thrive in subtropical areas. However, it happily grows in areas with mild frosts. Although its leaves die back in winter, if you mulch well with compost, it'll bounce back in spring.

**GOOD TO KNOW:** Find young plants at specialist herb nurseries or look for fresh roots at Asian greengrocers. Harvest roots in the autumn of their second year.

**USES:** Turmeric is a powerful anti-inflammatory, working quickly to reduce painful joint swelling, especially in old dogs and horses. If necessary, give them a teaspoon of powdered turmeric every day with their food.

## AFRICAN WORMWOOD

This grey-leaved plant is a strong insect repellent.

**GROWING TIPS:** Unfussy about soil, it

grows easily from seedlings and cuttings. It likes full sun, and once established, becomes a large, bushy drought-resistant plant. It needs little more than an occasional cutting back and can grow up to 2m tall.

**GOOD TO KNOW:** In early spring, cut it back by two thirds to encourage new growth.

**USES:** Few insects can withstand its strong-smelling leaves. It makes an effective flea powder and can be used as a wash to bath dogs. Use it as a fly spray (see overleaf) and in hens' bedding to repel mites.

## CATNIP

As its name suggests, cats find this herb irresistible.

**GROWING TIPS:** A member of the mint family, it grows easily from seed and seedlings and can be propagated from cuttings in spring. Protect newly planted slips from cats – they can destroy them! Sow seeds directly in a moist, sunny position. Catnip isn't fussy about soil and doesn't mind some shade. It spreads and can become quite bushy.

**GOOD TO KNOW:** Regular cutting back maintains the shape and the trimmings make a good insect-repelling mulch.

**USES:** Even when my cat Roo was in her 20s, completely blind and deaf, I would find her snuggling in the catnip. Most cats love catnip as it has a feel-good effect on them. It's also makes an effective insect repellent and can be used in a flea powder (see overleaf). ▷





Parsley



## PARSLEY

Parsley supposedly will only grow in a household that is headed by a woman!

**GROWING TIPS:** It takes ages to germinate and is easier grown from seedlings. It likes fertile soil, full sun and plenty of regular moisture. It prefers being planted in groups with other parsley or with companions like lettuce and spinach.

**GOOD TO KNOW:** Leave a few of the second-year plants in the ground and they'll start flowering when the heat builds up. These flowers attract many beneficial insects.

**USES:** Parsley is rich in minerals and vitamins and is an excellent cleansing herb for dogs and cats. It also keeps cats' urinary tracts healthy.

**NOTE:** Don't overdo it – add one teaspoon of parsley tea to their food per day for a week and then give it a break for at least two weeks. 🐾

## HERBAL FLEA POWDER FOR DOGS

*1T each dried: rosemary, African wormwood, catnip, tansy and fennel leaves*

*½ cup cornflour*

Crush the leaves to a powder with a pestle and mortar. Mix with the cornflour. Keep in an airtight container and sprinkle it onto bedding about every two weeks.



## FLY SPRAY

Use this spray regularly during summer on cats, dogs and horses when they are tormented by flies, especially around their ears and the base of their tails. For more sensitive areas, spray it onto your hands and rub it on their coats.

**CAUTION:** Both tea tree oil and tansy can be toxic to dogs if they lick it off in large quantities. Don't spray unnecessarily and don't spray excessively on small dogs. Don't use citronella lamp oil; it's poisonous.

*½ cup weak tansy infusion*

*1 cup mixed lemon balm and lemon grass infusion*

*1 cup apple cider vinegar*

*5 drops citronella essential oil*

*5 drops lavender essential oil*

*5 drops tea tree oil*

*10 drops glycerine*

Mix all the ingredients together in a spray bottle and shake well. Use only when necessary.

See our website [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za) for a herbal remedy for arthritis in dogs.

**SOURCE** *Jane's Delicious Herbs* by Jane Griffiths (Sunbird Publishers)



# No more sore spots for Zorro!



"My boy, Zorro, was suffering from sores between his toes which were sorted out with Cortisone pills, but then this "thing" appeared on his chest area. I tried almost everything, but then I put him on a strict regimen of 10ml Skin Care Remedy twice a day over his food and his skin has improved radically within just over a month of use and only one bottle! I will keep my Bullie on Regal Skin Care Remedy; many thanks again for a great product!"

*Serita & Zorro*

[www.regalpethealth.com](http://www.regalpethealth.com)

+27 83 505 1414

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REG02/15/E



new year's feast

# SOMETHING TO *celebrate*

New Year is the perfect excuse for one of Cape Town's top caterers to do what she does best – cook and entertain

## MENU

SALMON TARTARE  
SPICY GUACAMOLE

PEKING DUCK PANCAKES

BRAAIED PORK BELLY

SMOKED LINEFISH  
WITH LIME AIOLI

ROASTED SWEET POTATO  
AND SWEETCORN

CITRUS SLAW

AEDAN'S FRESH  
STRAWBERRY SOUFFLÉS

Peking duck pancakes. Recipe on page 114.





Andrea Foulkes

Would that we could all entertain, especially on important occasions like New Year, with the same ease and enjoyment as the Foulkes family where a simple drinks party to celebrate the New Year inevitably turns into a feast of interesting dishes.

Andrea Foulkes is something of a phenomenon. A primary school teacher by training, she slipped into catering at around the time her son Aedan was two years old and her daughter Sophie, six. In the 13 years since then she's built Dish Food & Social into a dynamic business with a staff of 60 catering for prestigious events such as the J&B Met at the Kenilworth Racetrack and the Nederburg Auction.

With the help of her husband Oscar, a marketing and branding specialist, she also runs three satellite restaurants. "My business developed naturally. I loved cooking for friends' birthday parties, then my sister-in-law, Tracy, of NoMU, a food production company, passed a couple of functions my way and things progressed from there," she says. "I still have the three staff members who were with me when I started in the kitchen at my home in Oranjezicht. The gardener at the time, Ayanda Klaas, is now our main meat man. Then as the business grew, we needed more stoves, more storage space and more freezers."

When Andrea entertains at home she tends to lose control of the guest list and often ends up cooking for 10, 12 and even 20 people. She and Oscar are very spontaneous. "If we find we have a free evening, we send out SMSes to a number of friends to see if they're



Verusha Earl and Simone Hickson-Mahony

also free, and if they are, we then decide what to prepare.

"Entertaining at home is completely different to the highly organised approach required at work. I avoid more formal canapés that need to be passed around and don't serve ornately plated food," she explains. "I prefer to serve buffet-style food where things are very casual and guests are encouraged to help themselves when they feel like eating. The one thing that works really well is what I call grazing boards." These are large wooden platters filled with a variety of nibbles like those she's serving today including salmon tartare, spicy guacamole, Oscar's smoked linefish and the Peking duck pancakes that guests roll up themselves.

Andrea likes to offer guests something to snack on when they arrive, which is often a garden salad filled with things like asparagus and fresh herbs and finished with a simple vinaigrette dressing. Sometimes she serves a selection of main courses, partly to accommodate the variety of dietary preferences.

Andrea and Oscar's home is as relaxed as their entertaining with old parquet floors and dogs underfoot. The only place you'll find slick modernity is in the well-equipped kitchen with its matching red appliances.

The first view an arriving guest has is most likely to be Oscar vigorously stirring a sauce on the stove, thickening it with potato flour. "It's much better than wheat flour," he explains. He adds his personal touch to the menu with his braaiied pork belly and smoked linefish with lime aioli done in a kettle braai.

Perhaps Andrea's approach to entertaining at home comes from a wealth of knowledge and experience – or perhaps it comes from the love of food and the natural and easy nature of the chef. "Food," she maintains, "is very forgiving." ▷





## QUICK CHAT WITH THE COOK

**My cooking style is** relaxed and informal.

**No dinner party is complete without** our grazing boards for starters.

**If I had just one recipe book it would be**

*The Prawn Cocktail Years* (Penguin) by Simon Hopkinson and Lindsey Bareham.

**My top cooking tip is** to keep things simple.

**If I was stuck on a desert island with a celebrity chef it would be** Liam Tomlin.

**When it comes to food, my family** cooks and prepares it together.

**I always have** a sour dough culture in my fridge; it's been there for six or seven years. When we go on holiday we tell the house-sitter to care for it like a pet.



## SALMON TARTARE

(Serves 8–10)

**250g raw Norwegian salmon or yellowfin tuna**

**1 bunch spring onions, finely diced**

**8 Rosa tomatoes, finely diced**  
**1/3 English cucumber, peeled and finely diced**

**1 avocado, finely diced**  
**1T lime juice**

**salt and ground white pepper**  
**2T extra virgin olive oil**

### FOR THE DIPPING SAUCE:

**2T sesame oil**

**2T peanut oil**

**1T grated ginger**

**1t garlic, finely chopped**

**1–2 red chillies, finely chopped, to taste**

**4 spring onions, finely chopped**  
**100ml soy sauce**

**palm or brown sugar, to taste**

**60ml lime juice, freshly squeezed**

**1.** To make the dipping sauce: mix all the ingredients altogether and adjust the sweetness and lime juice to taste.

**2.** To make the tartare: dice the salmon finely and mix it in a bowl with all the other ingredients and chill until ready to serve with the dipping sauce.

## SPICY GUACAMOLE

(Serves 8–10)

**2 ripe avocados, finely diced**

**1 red chilli, finely chopped**

**10 Rosa tomatoes, finely diced**

**Maldon salt and ground black pepper**

**juice of 1 lime or lemon**

**extra virgin olive oil**

### TO SERVE:

**sourdough toast**

**1.** Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and chill

until ready to serve with the salmon tartare.

**2.** Brush the sourdough slices with olive oil and grill in the oven before serving.

## PEKING DUCK PANCAKES

(Serves 6–8)

**1 whole duck**

**coarse salt and pepper, to taste**

**12 pancakes\***

**cucumber, cut into thin strips**

**spring onions, cut into thin strips**

**hoisin sauce**

**1.** To roast the duck: heat the oven to 220°C. Remove and discard any excess fat from the body cavity and neck, then rinse the duck inside and out.

**2.** Prick the skin all over with a sharp fork and rub inside and out with coarse salt and pepper.

**3.** Roast the duck, breast side up on a grid over a roasting pan for 45 minutes. Turn it over and roast for another 45 minutes. Turn it over again and roast until the skin is brown and crisp. This should take about 2 hours.

**4.** Remove the duck from the oven and tilt it to drain any liquid from the cavity into the pan. Transfer it to a cutting board and let stand for at least 15 minutes before carving or shredding it.

**5.** Serve the pancakes with the cucumber, spring onions, hoisin sauce and shredded duck (either at room temperature or slightly warm) in separate bowls and allow guests to roll their own.

**\*COOK'S NOTE:** Buy ready-made pancakes from Asian supermarkets or use tortilla wraps and cut them into small rounds.

## BRAAIED PORK BELLY

(Serves 6–8)

**2kg pork belly, about 220g per person**

**NoMU Provencal Rub table salt**

**1.** To prepare the belly: rub it liberally all over with NoMU Provencal Rub and salt, ensuring the rub goes into the cracks where the skin has been scored. Sprinkle the skin side with a little additional salt.

**2.** Using a braai that enables the grid to be raised higher above the coals, grill with skin side down until golden and crispy, taking care not to let it blacken. This could take 45 minutes. Flip the belly to brown the meat side.

**3.** At this point the heat from the coals will be less fierce. If possible, cover the braai to create





Vincent Gumpo

an oven effect. Flip the belly every 10 minutes.  
4. After about 90–120 minutes you'll have tender and delicious pork belly. Cut and serve. If necessary, the belly can be warmed in the oven – skin side up – just prior to cutting and serving.  
**COOK'S NOTE:** Braaied pork belly is a great addition to paella, risotto or other upcycled leftovers.

## SMOKED LINEFISH WITH LIME AIOLI

(Serves 6–8)

**1,5kg side of fresh linefish**  
**salt and black pepper**  
**few good handfuls citrus leaves**

### FOR THE AIOLI:

**2 egg yolks**  
**1t Dijon mustard**  
**4T good olive oil**  
**juice of half a lime**  
**1 cup vegetable oil**  
**crushed garlic, to taste**

**spring onions, capers and gherkins (optional)**

**TO SERVE:**  
**lime or lemon wedges**

1. Season the fish well with salt and black pepper.
2. To cook the fish: light charcoal (not briquettes) in the side cradles of a kettle braai.
3. When the coals are ready (covered in white ash and not too fierce as you need a gentle cooking process – probably around 80°C), toss the lemon leaves onto the coals and quickly put the fish on the grid so that it's above the channel between the cradles. Cover with the lid (vents closed).



4. Depending upon heat and the size of the fish, it will take between 20–30 minutes to cook.

5. To make the aioli: whisk the egg yolks and Dijon mustard with the olive oil and lime juice; continue to whisk while drizzling in the vegetable oil. Season to taste and add some crushed garlic to taste. Add the spring onions and gherkins if using.

6. Serve the fish with the aioli and lime or lemon wedges.

## ROASTED SWEET POTATO AND SWEETCORN

(Serves 10)

**6 large orange or yellow sweet potatoes, cut into wedges**

**4 sweetcorn, blanched and then charred on the fire and cut off the cob**

**1t smoked paprika**  
**1 stalk lemon grass, finely chopped**  
**1 tub crème fraîche**

**TO SERVE:**  
**red chillies, sliced spring onions, microgreens and fresh coriander**

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C. Bake the sweet potatoes until they're soft and caramelised.
2. Mix the smoked paprika and lemon grass into the crème fraîche. Place the sweet potato and corn in a bowl, and while still warm, coat with the crème fraîche mix.
3. To serve: garnish with sliced red chillies, spring onions, microgreens and coriander. ➤





## CITRUS SLAW

(Serves 10–15)

*1 red cabbage, finely shredded*  
*1 white cabbage, finely shredded*  
*1 carrot, finely shredded*  
*sugar snaps or mange tout, finely shredded*  
*1 fennel bulb, finely shredded*  
*fresh mint leaves*  
*seedless mandarin oranges or clementines, segmented and juice reserved*

### FOR THE DRESSING:

*3T extra virgin olive oil*  
*Maldon salt and black pepper*

1. To make the salad: toss all the ingredients together.
2. To make the dressing: mix the citrus juice with the olive oil, Maldon salt and black pepper.
3. Just before serving, add the dressing to the salad.

## AEDAN'S STRAWBERRY SOUFFLÉS

(Serves 4–8)

*butter and extra caster sugar*  
*340g fresh strawberries, washed and trimmed*  
*lemon or lime juice (to taste)*  
*1T corn starch*  
*½ cup unrefined caster sugar*  
*4 large free-range egg whites*  
*pinch salt*

### TO SERVE:

*chocolate chunks, figs and fresh strawberries, raspberries or cherries (optional)*

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.
2. Grease 4–8 ramekins with butter and dust with the extra caster sugar.
3. Place the strawberries, lemon juice, corn starch and



half the caster sugar in a food processor and blend until smooth.

4. Whisk the egg whites to soft peaks with an electric mixer.
5. Gradually whisk in the salt and the rest of the sugar until stiff peaks are reached.
6. Whisk ⅓ of the strawberry purée into the egg whites.
7. Gently fold in the remaining strawberry mixture.
8. Fill all the ramekins and flatten the tops with a butter knife. Run a knife around the inside edge of the ramekins so the soufflés can rise easier.
9. Bake until the soufflés have risen and the tops are golden brown (generally around 15 minutes depending on the oven).

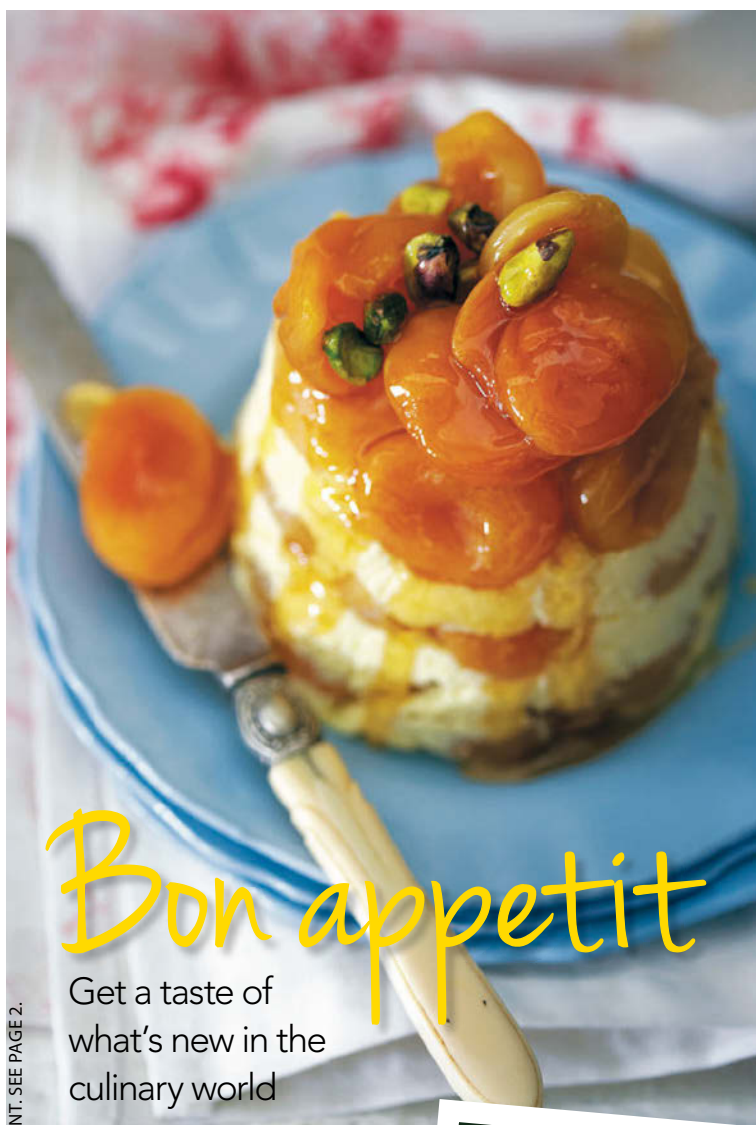


Oscar, Aeden, Andrea and Sophie Foulkes

10. Remove from the oven and serve immediately with chocolate chunks, figs and fresh berries. **GH**

**SOURCE** Dish Food & Social  
[dishfood.co.za](http://dishfood.co.za)



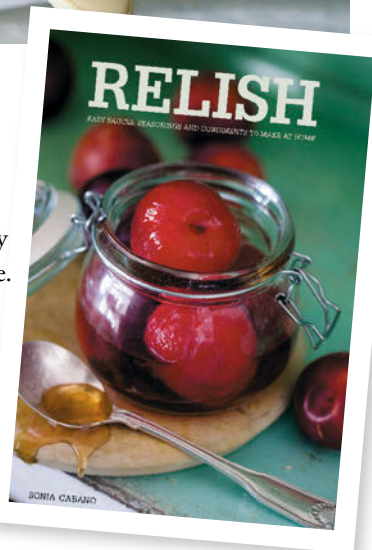


# Bon appetit

Get a taste of what's new in the culinary world

## SPICE IT UP

*Relish* by Sonia Cabano (Struik Lifestyle), R220, is crammed full of rubs, spices, dressings and marinades that'll turn an ordinary meal into a flavourful masterpiece. You'll find the recipe for these delicious Dried Apricots in Brandy (pictured above) on our website [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za). Serve them with thick Greek yoghurt, soft cheeses and use them in baked desserts.

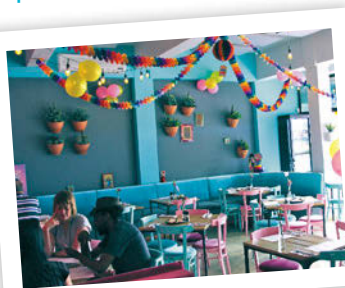


## The white stuff

Considered a 'good' fat, coconut oil helps lower cholesterol. Try Lemcke Organic Virgin Coconut Oil for cooking, frying and baking. It's even great in smoothies! R74 for 250ml, it's available at selected Pick n Pay and Spar outlets. Visit [lemcke.co.za](http://lemcke.co.za)

## FIESTA TIME

Bold, fiery flavours make the uber-hot Perron restaurant in Illovo, Jo'burg the place to eat. Think black bean tostadas, slow-cooked pork tacos and peanut chicken mole. End off with churros and dulce de leche. Call 011 880 7296 or visit [perron.co.za](http://perron.co.za)



## Joint forces

- Kick off 2015 celebrations in style with **Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Réserve Champagne**, R399. A classic blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier it's superb with canapés.
- The unusual Grenache Blanc and Chenin Blanc blend **Solms Delta Amalie** 2013, R98, is rich and robust and a great match with herbed roast chicken.



- **Anwilka Petit Frère** 2012, R95, is a Syrah-dominated blend with Cabernet Sauvignon and a splash of Petit Verdot. Serve it with a spiced braaied leg of lamb.

## food and wine



## Slice and DICE

Essential for everyday use and good looking too are sturdy Opinel Pairing Knives with colour-tinted hornbeam wood handles and 10cm blades. Set of four, R699, from [Yuppiechef.com](http://Yuppiechef.com)

## WHAT'S ON

### 17 and 24 JANUARY Muratie Music Concerts and Harvest Festival

Relax under the ancient oak trees in Stellenbosch while enjoying fine wines, music and the Farm Kitchen's summer menu. Call 021 865 2330 or visit [muratie.co.za](http://muratie.co.za)

### 29 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY Up the Creek Festival

Celebrate Sedgwick's Old Brown's 25th birthday in Swellendam with live music and good food. Visit [upthecreek.co.za](http://upthecreek.co.za)

### 31 JANUARY Hartenberg Riesling & Rarities Rock Festival

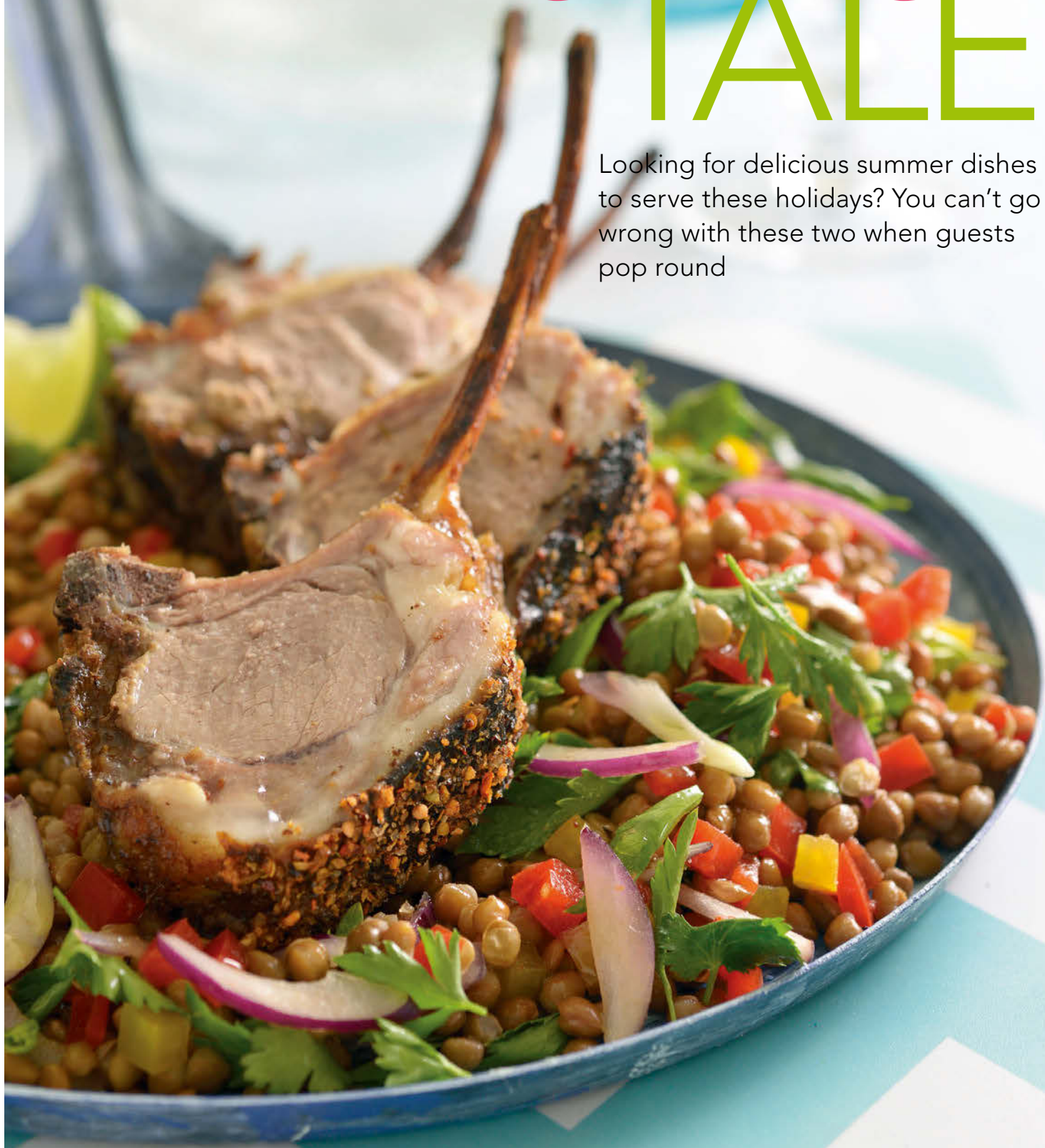
Taste flagship South African Rieslings, rare wines and gourmet fare in Stellenbosch. Visit [hartenberg.co.za](http://hartenberg.co.za) **GH**



effortless entertaining

# *A grilling* TALE

Looking for delicious summer dishes to serve these holidays? You can't go wrong with these two when guests pop round





## INDIAN-SPICED LAMB CUTLETS WITH LENTIL AND HERB SALAD

(Serves 4–6)

### FOR THE LENTIL AND HERB SALAD:

30ml white wine vinegar  
10ml caster sugar  
5ml paprika  
5ml ground cumin  
3ml ground coriander  
45ml olive oil  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 x 410g cans brown lentils, rinsed and drained  
1 small red onion, peeled and cut into thin crescents  
½ each red and yellow peppers, diced  
15g fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped  
10g fresh coriander leaves, chopped (optional)

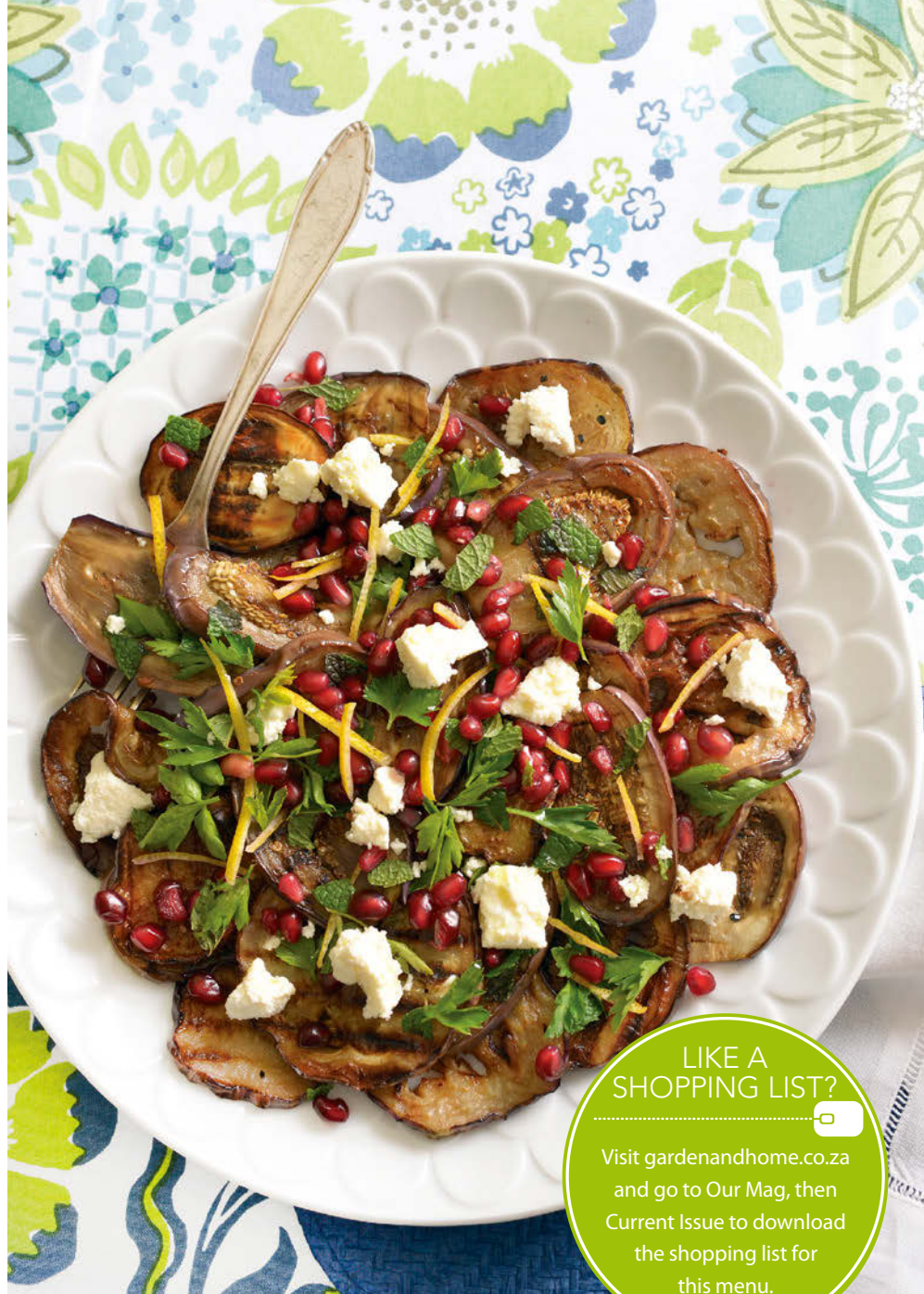
### FOR THE LAMB CUTLETS:

8–12 lamb cutlets, trimmed of excess fat  
60ml korma curry paste  
5ml cumin seeds  
30ml sesame seeds  
40g mixed nuts, such as pistachio and macadamia nuts, finely chopped  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
30ml olive oil

### TO SERVE:

lime wedges

1. To make the lentil and herb salad: whisk the vinegar and sugar in a small bowl until the sugar has dissolved. Whisk in the paprika, ground cumin, ground coriander and olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
2. Place the lentils, red onion and peppers in a bowl and stir in the oil mixture. Cover and chill for 30 minutes. Add the parsley and coriander and season with salt and pepper.
3. To make the Indian-spiced lamb cutlets: rub the sides of the lamb cutlets with the korma curry paste.
4. Combine the cumin seeds, sesame seeds and nuts together on a plate.
5. Press the korma-coated side of the cutlets into the nuts; season with salt and pepper.
6. Heat the oil in a pan or grill searing the lamb for 4–5 minutes per side or until done.
7. Warm the lentil and herb salad slightly or serve it at room temperature with the Indian-spiced lamb cutlets.



### LIKE A SHOPPING LIST?

Visit [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za) and go to Our Mag, then Current Issue to download the shopping list for this menu.

## GRILLED AUBERGINE SALAD

(Serves 4–6)

45ml olive oil  
5ml crushed garlic  
2–3 medium-sized aubergines, thinly sliced  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
5ml ground cumin  
3ml cayenne pepper  
10ml sesame oil  
15ml white balsamic vinegar  
45ml orange juice  
zest of ½ orange  
125g feta cheese, cubed  
50g pomegranate rubies  
15g fresh mint, chopped  
10g fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

1. To make salad: mix the oil and garlic together. Brush both sides of the aubergine slices with the olive oil mixture and season with salt and pepper.
2. Cook the aubergines on an open grill in batches in a single layer for 2–3 minutes per side, or alternatively in a griddle pan. Arrange on a serving platter.
3. Mix the cumin, cayenne pepper, sesame oil, vinegar, orange juice and orange zest together and pour over the aubergines. Cover with cling film and chill in the fridge.
4. Bring to room temperature before serving and top the salad with feta cheese, pomegranate rubies, mint and parsley. Serve with the lamb cutlets or as a vegetarian alternative. **GH**



# HAVANA *nights*

Sarah Laurence was won over by the friendly welcome when she visited this vibrant, festive city

Coco taxis line up outside the Great Theatre of Havana.

In movies Havana is always portrayed as retro and romantic, the streets lined with curvy vintage cars in bold jewel colours, laughing people of every shade wearing daring and colourful outfits and above all, Havana Club rum being poured over mint leaves. In real life the scenes are just as impossibly vibrant and the camera does them little justice. Having grown up with a fascination for Cuban history, I had long yearned to visit Havana, and while living in Canada, had the opportunity to holiday there.

Officially founded by the Spanish in the late 16th century, the city became the point from which they travelled to the Americas

– ironic, considering US-Cuban relations today. Since then it's been the social and cultural capital of a politically tumultuous country. Much like South Africa, Cuba's extreme political challenges have helped to shape the nation into a unique melting pot of races, cultures and religions where joys and tragedies always seem to be accompanied by live music, dancing and swigs of rum.

Havana can be broadly divided into three distinct zones: Habana Vieja, the old town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Centro Habana which is chockfull of museums, bars and architecturally exquisite government buildings and Vedado,



## SARAH'S TRAVEL TIPS



**NICE TO KNOW:** Although most people understand English, a basic knowledge of Spanish is useful, especially if you're planning to stay in private homes.

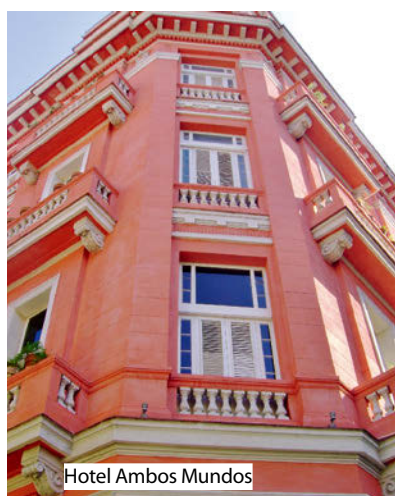
**SHOP UP A STORM:** At the community markets and buy local artwork, leather goods and jewellery from friendly artists.

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO PACK:** Take cool and comfy clothing, a few swimsuits and a big sunhat. Ensure your camera battery is fully charged and keep your camera close at hand!

**BEST SURVIVAL TIP:** Cuban Pesos are appreciated as tips so keep some easily accessible to reward warm and friendly service.



Fishing boats in front of the Castillo de Morro.



Hotel Ambos Mundos



El Floridita

the modernist grid-plan political centre, containing Art Deco buildings and the historic Plaza de la Revolución.

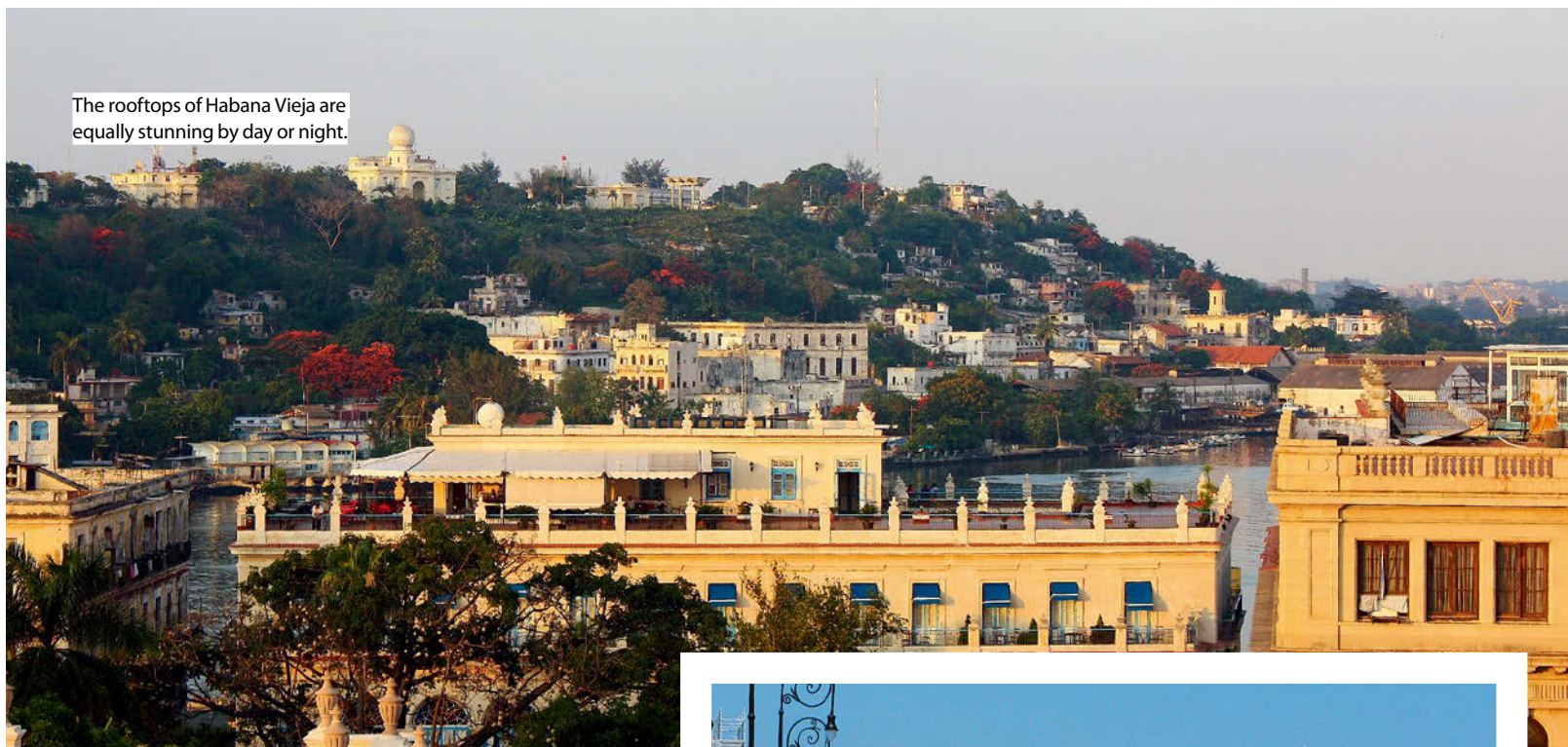
All hotels in Cuba are government owned, although guests can stay or dine in certain private houses – *casas particulares* – a fairly recent concession by the communist government and a

great way to experience Cuban life and culture. For its historical significance, centre-of-old-town location and reasonable price (understandable when we tried to use the plumbing), we booked into the Hotel Ambos Mundos, where Ernest Hemingway lived for seven years. His room, 511, is preserved as a museum. Although the rooms were spartan (and again, like many places on this Caribbean paradise the plumbing added previously unthought-of complications to your day) the piano bar lobby, rooftop bar and beautiful attractions only steps away made this salmon-coloured hotel a great find.

After centuries of neglect, the beautiful 14th-and 15th-century buildings of Vieja are being painstakingly restored by the Cuban government. Families live cheek by jowl in architecturally diverse antiquities with iron balustrades that act as vivid washing lines. The central square, Plaza de la Catedral, is anchored by the Baroque Catedral de San Cristobal which was visited by the Pope in 1998. The Plaza is lined with outdoor restaurants – charging gob-smackingly high tourist fares – but is a great place to start exploring the old city's cobbled ▷



The rooftops of Habana Vieja are equally stunning by day or night.



## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

**CURRENCY:** USD can be exchanged for Cuban Pesos once in the country. Tourists are only allowed to use the Convertible Cuban Peso (1CUC = about R11,20). Cuban citizens earn National Pesos.

**VISAS:** South Africans need a Cuban visa. For details contact the Embassy of Cuba 012 346 2215 or [consul@za.embacuba.cu](mailto:consul@za.embacuba.cu).

**WHEN TO GO:** There is no wrong time to visit, but try to avoid hurricane months from September to November and if you dislike extreme heat, don't go between June and August.



The winding Malecón is filled with vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

alleyways, second-hand markets, colonial buildings and celebrity-frequented bars.

By reputedly writing 'my mojito in La Bodeguita, my daiquiri in El Floridita' in a letter, Ernest Hemingway unknowingly secured flourishing future trade for these traditional watering holes and is credited with making the mojito an international favourite. Although their atmosphere has become inevitably commercialised, they remain fun places to drink, be merry and people watch.

The plush El Floridita sits at a busy pedestrian thoroughfare, the cultural Calle Obispo, lined with interesting buildings and historic shops. Known as the 'cradle of the daiquiri', it is reportedly where Hemingway helped to invent the modern incarnation of the refreshing beverage. Drunk under the watchful brass bust of the man himself, his invention is certainly worth the hype. La Bodeguita del Medio has a far more raffish ambiance, boasting graffiti, signature blue walls and a flirtatious in-house band. Visitors are encouraged to add their signatures to those of famous patrons Nat King Cole, Gabriel García Márquez and the biggest bar-fly of them all, Hemingway.

Linking the disparate parts of Havana along the coast is a winding promenade, the 7km Malecón. Havana's meeting place for picnics, fishing and jumping into the ocean after a warm day, it is lined with pastel-coloured buildings built in the early 20th century that look spectacular as the sun sets over the Bay of Havana. Across the water from the Malecón sits the Castillo de Morro, a castle and lighthouse, more decorative than protective, and the venue for evening festivities and military re-enactments.

Like most cities, an open-top bus tour is a good way to see more of Havana. We duly rode to Vedado, the central business district one ghostly quiet Sunday morning, stopping at the grand parade ground, Plaza de la Revolución, to gawk at the multistoried image of Che Guevara on the austere Ministerio del Interior and the 109m-high Art Deco José Martí Memorial, which celebrates Cuba's independence hero.

While most tourists visit Cuba's largest cigar factory, the Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás in Centro Habana, we were whisked through back streets to another, slightly out of






town by our taxi driver who also functioned as a local guide. Accompanied by a guide, we not only saw the manufacturing of hand-made cigars, step by laborious step, but were also given a rare insight into the lives and passions of young Cubans. With daring that might have had him detained, our guide opened up about his life and beliefs, entreating us to tell the world about his and others' unhappiness under the communist regime.

While aware of the dangers of stereotyping, we didn't meet a Cuban who wasn't friendly and welcoming. Possessing long blonde hair, I received more than my fair share of wooing from young and old, but never once felt threatened or preyed upon. Many women

are desperate to obtain a new passport and flirt with male tourists in the hope of escape. The city is safe after dark, and as the day's heat eases, families emerge from hidden doorways and music floats down stairs and from brightly lit *casas*.

Havana's inhabitants are naturally curious and would often stop to chat and improve their English. Sometimes word would skip on ahead and we'd walk up a street to friendly shouts of *Sudáfrica, Sudáfrica!* Cubans are only allowed out of the country with select work visas.

We were struck by the colourful and vibrant way in which the locals live, even though many are in dire poverty. 



## COLLECTING ICONIC 20TH-CENTURY CHAIRS WITH

# Reg Taylor

Heaven for this collector, is where no room  
is too small for a well-designed chair



It's musical chairs with a difference in art teacher Reg Taylor's Mid-Century Modern Johannesburg home. Here the chairs get added to the game, not removed. "I like to do chair rotation.

Every now and then I swap chairs from storage to display. Over the years I've run out of room." So what did Reg do? He started supplementing his collection with miniature versions.

"I've always appreciated good design, particularly early modernist pieces. My first really good find was a set of four 'Jason' plywood stack chairs by Carl Jacobs. A friend bought them in England in the 1950s and was going to throw them out when he moved house. He was kind enough to pass them on to me."

Whether full-size or miniature, Reg's collection focuses on chairs from the 20th Century. "It's amazing how timeless these designs are. When I tell people, for instance, that the Marcel Breuer Wassily chair was designed 90 years ago, they don't believe me. Today these designs, which are often seen in the pages of design magazines and on movie sets, look as stylish and contemporary as furniture designed yesterday.

"My favourites are the Barcelona chairs (designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe) for their handsome good looks and the Le Corbusier LC4 chaise longue for its luxurious comfort. Just a couple of minutes on the chaise and I drift off to a dream world where no room is too small for a well-designed chair."



**THIS PAGE FROM LEFT:** Miniature chairs: ● The Jacobsen Egg chair. ● Eames LCW. ● The Eames lounge and ottoman.

### TIPS FOR ASPIRING COLLECTORS

- Wim Castleman of Decades in Melville is still astounded by the quality of furniture that came into South Africa in the 1950s and 1960s. "The economy must have been very good back then. Thankfully you can still get vintage pieces at reasonable prices," he says.
- "Do your research before you purchase and buy through a reputable dealer. Companies like Knoll, Vitra and Cassina hold the licence to manufacture authorised copies of design greats. Look for makers' stamps. If you know your stuff, you can pick up original Dansk designs at good prices. Also, look out for well-designed quality 1960's pieces from South African companies like Frystarke and Kallenbach – they're rapidly appreciating in value," Wim adds.





## 20TH-CENTURY DESIGNERS

**Charles Rennie Mackintosh** A Scottish Art Nouveau designer, he created Japanese-inspired furnishings for his buildings. Designs include the Willow, Argyle Tea Room and Hill House chairs (1902).

**Gerrit Rietveld** This Dutch designer and member of the De Stijl movement reinvented the chair with his rectilinear Red and Blue chair (1918) with flat planks in bold primary colours.

**Marcel Breuer** This Hungarian-born designer deconstructed the club chair for artist Wassily Kandinsky's apartment in 1925.

**Le Corbusier** Considered to be the father of Modernism, his timeless designs include the LC4 chaise longue and Grand and Petit Confort club chairs and sofas (1927).


**Arne Jacobsen** This Danish architect designed entire buildings including the furnishings. His most famous works are the Swan and Egg chairs (1958).

**Charles and Ray Eames** This American husband and wife team experimented with plywood in mass production. Their recliner and ottoman (1956), for furniture company Herman Miller, became a fixture in top executives' offices.

**Eero Saarinen** Designed to eliminate the clutter of legs under a table, his Tulip chair (1956) was supported by a single moulded stem.

**Eero Aarnio** A Finnish industrial designer famous for his Globe, Bubble and Pastil chairs. Eero brought the fun back into interior design with brightly coloured, multi-functional designs. The Pastil chair can be used indoors or outdoors and even floats.

**Verner Panton** This Dane moved plastic furniture into the high-end designer market. His injection-moulded S-shaped chair is both simple and practical.

**Philippe Starck** When this French designer recreated a Louis XV chair in clear polycarbonate, a modern design classic was born. Kartell hold the license to manufacture the Louis Ghost chair, but copies have flooded the market in recent years. 

**ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Miniature chairs:

- Mackintosh's Willow chair. ● Eero Aarnio's Pastil chair.
- Eero Saarinen's Tulip chair. ● Gerrit Rietveld's Red and Blue chair.



**ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Full-size chairs:

- Marcel Breuer's Wassily chair. ● Arne Jacobsen's 'Series 7' chair. ● A Le Corbusier chaise longue.

**SOURCE** Decades 083 477 2430



# Treasure chest

What are your collectables worth?

## FIND OF THE MONTH

*My father bought this till at an auction in Wolmaransstad around 1960 for use in our general dealer shop on the farm Leeuwnfontein, near Wolmaransstad. It was manufactured by the National Cash Register Company, Dayton, Ohio, USA. I suspect it's made of brass as it's not magnetic, but it has been painted over in silver, probably because the original was nickel-plated.*

*On the copper type plate the following information appears: S. STERN & Co., GENERAL DEALER, WOLMARANSSTAD. Around 1909, Samuel Stern (father of artist, Irma Stern) and his family settled in Wolmaransstad and ran a business known as S. Stern & Co. I believe that this particular till was imported by Samuel Stern from the USA. Can you tell me its value?*

**Braam van Wyk, via e-mail**

Says Ingrid Aron of Kalk Bay Antiques Centre: "By the early 1900s, most general dealers all over the country had tills like these. I've sold a couple of them in recent years but never for more than R14 500. Seeing that it's linked to Irma Stern, whose paintings sell for millions of rands on auction and who is arguably South Africa's most famous artist, I would say the value could increase to somewhere round R25 000, depending on its condition. I would need to see it to judge its real condition. Some of these tills sell for close to R20 000 in Johannesburg."



*This coffee set was given to me by my aunt who has since passed away. The stamp underneath reads Made in Holland and Rafetto. It has six cups and is in perfect condition. Can you please tell me anything about it? I would love to know how much it's worth and what style it's in.*

**Reg Taylor, via e-mail**

Geoff Burr of Burr & Muir Antiques confirms that the tea set is Dutch.

"As the marks are illegible, I'd estimate it was made in the 1930s or 1940s and has a value of R500.

If those are all the pieces, then it's a part set. If it were a breakfast set, which usually has one or two cups, there would have been a side plate for each cup.

Regretfully the creamy brown colour works against its marketability." **GH**



*I'd love to know more about this vase I bought at a second-hand shop 15 years ago.*

**D van der Westhuyzen, via e-mail**

According to specialist dealer Clyde Terry, this is definitely not Wedgwood. "Genuine Wedgwood would have very crisp cameo moulding in white on a coloured background. The cameo work on this vase is clearly dripped and not as detailed as original Jasperware.

"This vase falls short of the detail we expect from Wedgwood. The white cameo section is translucent and very thin in comparison to original wares. The weight will also be a lot lighter than original items from this factory."

**EXPERT TIP: "WHEN TRYING TO IDENTIFY WEDGWOOD, REMEMBER A GENUINE PIECE WOULD HAVE VERY CRISP CAMEO MOULDING IN WHITE ON A COLOURED BACKGROUND," SAYS EXPERT CLYDE TERRY**

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Send in clear photographs of collectable items to Treasure Chest, SA Garden and Home, Box 3124, Parklands 2121. Due to the volume of mail we are unable to respond personally or return photographs. Send e-mail submissions to [gardenandhome@caxton.co.za](mailto:gardenandhome@caxton.co.za). Pictures must be sent as separate attachments at a size between 1MB – 2MB. Only one submission per reader will be accepted. For guidelines on the best way to take your photos for Treasure Chest, visit our website [gardenandhome.co.za](http://gardenandhome.co.za)



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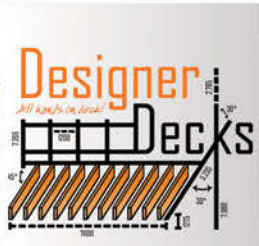


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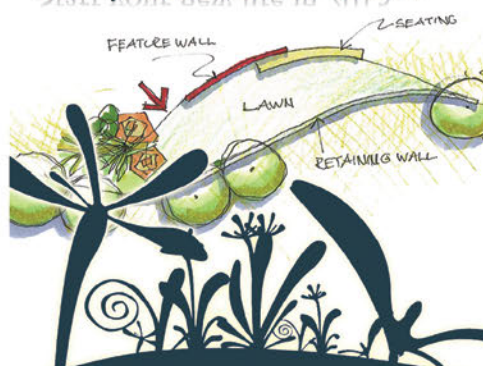
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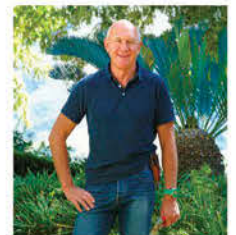
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# HIGH FIVE

Nicole Bruigom's passion for illustration has grown into a thriving design business. She shares five of her favourite things

**D**urban-based Nicole Bruigom, owner of textile and design company Nicole and the Striped Flamingo, is one of those lucky people who's always known exactly what she wanted to do with her life. "It was such an easy decision to study graphic design and I completed a degree in Typography and Illustration at the Durban University of Technology.

"For my fourth-year project, I chose children's illustrations. Around the same time, I discovered my mother's recipe book and I decided to create a keepsake for my brothers." Art Publishers snapped up the book, called *Little Chef*, which proved popular with children and their parents alike, who all relate to the fun, whimsical pictures.

Produced by Robin Sprong Wallpaper, Nicole's range of wallpapers featuring hand-drawn designs in mainly pretty pastel colours has been equally successful. "I find inspiration all around – the challenge is to keep creating new designs that appeal to other people but retain my signature style," she says. Nicole's designs are available as wallpapers, fabrics, framed illustrations, greeting cards and calendars.



## NICOLE'S BEST...

**SPACE** is Market restaurant in Greyville, Durban(1). "I love the contemporary French café feel of the interiors and the black, white and yellow palette they've chosen," says Nicole. "At night the outside courtyard area is lit up with fairy lights – the perfect spot for a romantic dinner. The food is consistently good, too. My favourites are the fishcakes and lamb burgers."

**ACCESSORY** is ArtVraat Designs' Origami Rabbit Cushion (2). "It's just plain stylish," says Nicole. "Just one of these cushions makes a bold statement in any area of the home."

**ESCAPE** is Brigit Filmer Spa & Skin in Kloof (3). "Coming here is always a treat," says Nicole. "It's tranquil and luxurious and there's attention to detail both in the treatments and the decor, which features mosaics by Jane du Rand and feminine touches like shelves displaying pretty glass perfume bottles."

**WALLPAPER FROM HER COLLECTION** is Vintage Vibes (4). "Wallpaper is an accessory which allows you to inject some of your personality into a space. Consider having something custom-designed for your home," she suggests.

**LOCAL ARTIST** is Aurelia James who paints still-life and scenic artworks. "I'm lucky enough to own three of her pieces, including this one (5); I love the mood she evokes." **GEH**

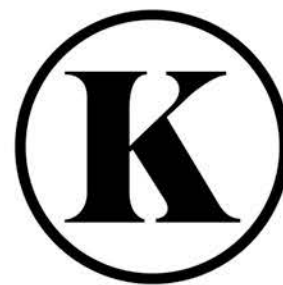
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